

# The Bethel News.

## Extra Illustrated Edition

BETHEL, MAINE, JANUARY 6, 1904.

### A Glimpse of Bethel

To him who delights to hold communion with Nature, and who is touched and inspired by her beauty and grandeur, to higher motives, to nobler achievements, to truer and more fruitful living, certainly the towns which are nestled among the hills of Oxford County, Maine, *must*, indeed, do afford opportunities for resting, for feasting, for inspiration, which are second to none afforded by the many delightful spots which Nature has placed within our boundaries. The tranquillity of our summer months once experienced and enjoyed, is never forgotten, while the crispness and sparkle of our winter weather is, indeed, exhilarating and none the less enjoyable. For who would forget those days when all Nature has donned her white mantle, indeed, when the white drifts are above the highest fence tops and the broad fields and pastures are a very ocean of snow; when the oblique rays of sun seem to have no apparent effect upon the biting cold; when the breezes from off the adjacent mountains produce those rhythmic strains so familiar and yet so enjoyed for their uniqueness by the residents of the Pine Tree State, and where the very keenness of the air gives zest to living? Nor would we forget those other days when the softer and gentler influences of a vernal sun bring us forth from our wintry state to join all nature in a new lease of life. There is something exceedingly captivating about the climatic conditions among these Oxford Hills, which appeals alike to the old life-long residents, the new residents, the regular visitors and the occasional visitors.

Situated in the wide, winding valley of the Androscoggin, flanked by the rough hills and peaks of Oxford county, is the village of Bethel, one thousand feet above the sea, on the eastern slope of the White Mountain range in the extreme northwest of Maine. It is set upon a hill, some ten miles in circumference, overlooking beautiful intervals, green fields, plots of tillage ground, clustering houses cradled in the hollows, the subdued brown of pasture lands ascending upward, all forming a beautiful setting with the distant mountains entirely encircling it as a background. An ideal picture indeed, possessing all the wild beauty and grandeur for which mountain regions throughout the world are celebrated, and one that has a lingering charm, not only to Bethel's residents, but to the hundreds of visitors who come and go from year to year. Bethel and the adjacent country is intersected by well-kept roadways, winding o'er mountain and through valley, while the air is freighted with the balsamic odor of the pine and fir; all of which combine to make Bethel a favored resort by the tourist and summer vacationist.

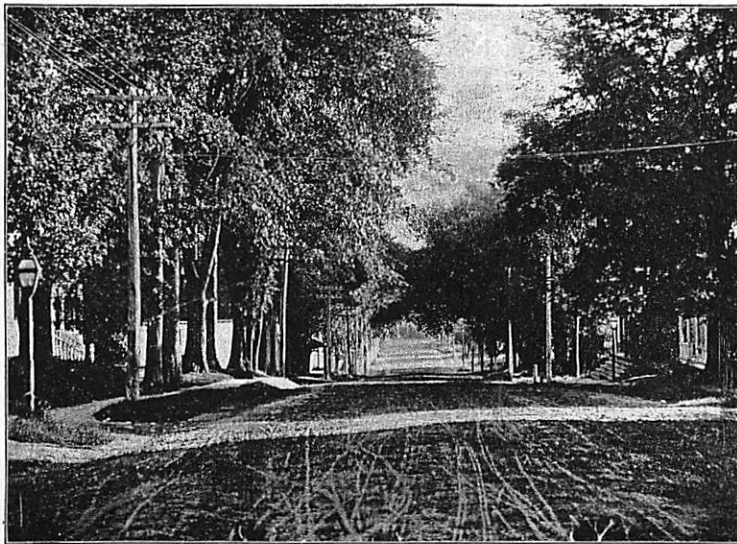
The region of which Bethel is the center, is interesting and beautiful, and the accessibility of the different points of interest is greatly appreciated. Within the compass of a day there are delightful trips to Screw Auger Falls, a most wonderful freak of nature and one that never fails to interest the sight-seer, whether it be his first visit or his annual, monthly, or weekly visit; to Grafton Notch, Bald Mountain, Mt. Abram, Mt. Farwell,

Greenwood Caves, Albany Basins, Gilead Suspension Bridge over the Androscoggin, Rumford Falls and Berlin Falls the two paper cities that have sprung up in a night; to Songo Pond, Locke's Pond and Bryant's Pond for bass and pickerel; to Hanover Ferry, Rumford Ferry, Hastings Ferry and Bartlett Ferry, crossing the Androscoggin river as in "ye olden time"; to Chapman Brook, Wild River, Sunday River and Bear River, for trout, partridge and deer. As other places of interest within a radius of from twenty to forty miles, may be noted Mt. Washington, Ozisechos Falls on the Magalloway, Dixville Notch, Roxbury Notch, Errol Dam, Middle Dam on the Rangeleys, Poland Springs, Sebago Lake, Bay of Naples Inn, and to Umbagog, Parmachenee, Richardson & Rangeley Lakes for salmon, partridge, deer and moose.

Bethel, a clean, thriving, up-to-date New England village, nestled in the very bosom of a region which is said by travelers of experience to be unsurpassed for beauty, grandeur, and healthfulness, is a most ideal spot for rest and recreation. It is one of those towns the growth of which has not been marked by years nor hardly by decades, but by generations; its inhabitants are, therefore, largely lineal descendants of the pioneer settlers and possess the same principles which characterized them; a marked pride has always been taken in their town and village, and every movement that has pointed to improvements of any kind or nature has been faithfully and loyally supported. The fruit of this loyalty is everywhere in evidence, noticeably so in our village, conceded by all to be one of the most beautiful in New England. The broad, well-kept streets and sidewalks, overhung from end to end by majestic elms, set by our fathers and father's fathers; the modern residences and beautiful lawns and walks; the large public Common bordered by young maples, centered by a unique fountain, and recently improved and set with shrubbery, all go to make the village all that its many admirers claim for it. Nor is it its beauty alone that has incited the just claims that have been so often made; comforts, convenience, healthfulness, and protection have received due attention. The village is supplied with the purest of water brought from mountain springs nearly five miles away; it also has a good sewerage system and a most excellent fire service. These with the live working churches, excellent schools, well equipped public library and minor requisites make our village equipment.

Although Bethel has several manufacturing industries, yet, it is not in the modern sense a manufacturing town. There is no foreign element gathered on the outskirts, no hideous row of corporation tenements, no sharp

contrast between poverty and wealth; but there is a quiet dignity in the broad streets over-arched by the long lines of elms, and a look of prosperous well-doing about the neatly kept homes. It is an old Academy town, and has, consequently, its own appreciation of intellectual and social life. Intelligent self respect has set the standard for all that is highest and best. Many a poor boy had received his first start in life



A Portion of Main Street

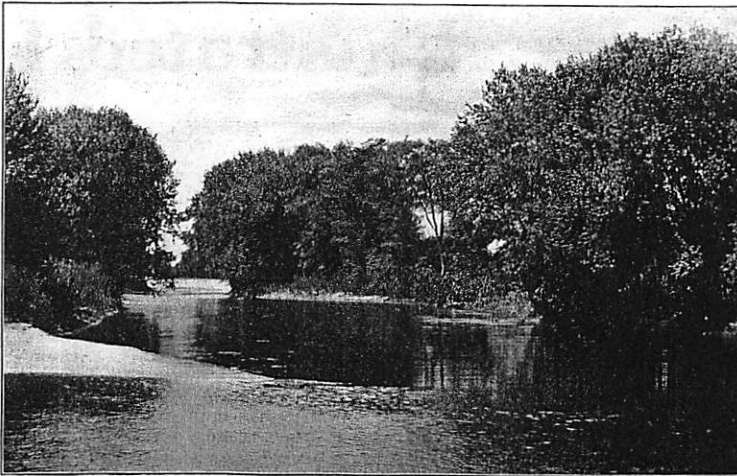
from the kindly recognition and encouragement of his efforts to make his way through the open doors of the Academy and out into the broader fields beyond.

Such is Bethel, richest always in New England's best productions, men and women, happy in its simple rounds of pleasure, content to keep its place among the hills, with the clear, blue sky above it and Nature's purest and best treasures lavished at its feet. Would you learn to know it as its own people know and love it? Then you must certainly learn something of its environments. To that end, drive over the old toll bridge in the early coolness of a mid-summer morning, and on down the bending shore of the Androscoggin. Mark the dimpling curl of the water as it flows silently by beneath silvery birches that stand out over it from the high banks above. Glance across to the opposite shore where, amid broad fields of waving grass, the finest elm of the whole town raises itself in conscious symmetry and strength. Let the simple, restful grace of hill and meadow and river once cast its spell upon you, and memory will long be busied with the scene.

Better still, stroll over to Sunset Rock some afternoon, and look back at the village as it straggles up the slope on which it stands. Facing farther to the right, follow the graceful curves of the river until they lose themselves up the valley, in that far distance beyond which can be seen the overlapping summits of the Presidential range. Should the view tempt you, push on up the uneven side of Farwell mountain to the top and stand there while the darkness meets the day. Stand there while the pink and purple glory of the sunset fades into deepest blue, while the shadows gather slowly over the village and the peaceful farms below, and creep higher and higher until even the sharp outlines of the mountain peaks grow dim against the sky. Stand there until the whole wide universe seems dissolved in darkness and you yourself, amid the soft sobbing of the pines in the rising night wind, are left alone.

Just one scene more. In October, when the soft glow of Indian summer has spread itself over the landscape, climb Mount Abram, trenching somewhat upon Greenwood soil. As you ascend, the smaller elevations sink into insignificance and a low basin of land lies before you, bounded on the north and west by the highest mountains of the whole region. The autumn foliage is in the full burst of splendor. On the neighboring heights individual trees draw the attention and blaze out defiantly in gold and crimson as if to challenge the admiration of the beholder, but farther away all finer outlines vanish and only the general effect remains. The earth seems carpeted in tints of marvelous richness, tapestried in the most intricate designs, covered as it were by a vast fabric of woven colors, green and olive, red and orange and brown, a fabric that rolls from east to west and from north to south in unbroken beauty. Keep silent for a few moments and gaze about you. Let your eyes become focused upon all that falls within your horizon, and, if you are a true lover of nature, the picture before you

mountains round about us, and last but not least, men and women, now fathers and mothers, who are instilling into the minds of the rising generation those principles of right that will be of incalculable worth in the maintenance and upbuilding of the homes of the State and nation. As it is viewed from all points and as the sterling worth of its people is known who can but say "All Hail" to Bethel and her sons and daughters.



The Androscoggin at Bethel

Every village holds three classes of people. First, and of necessity foremost, those to the Manor born. These will ever be her most loyal sons and daughters. Even the bleakest winds, the most barren soil, the most distressingly meagre scenery, can not dim a local patriotism. It would then be exceedingly strange if Bethel's children were not ardent in their admiration for her worth and beauty.

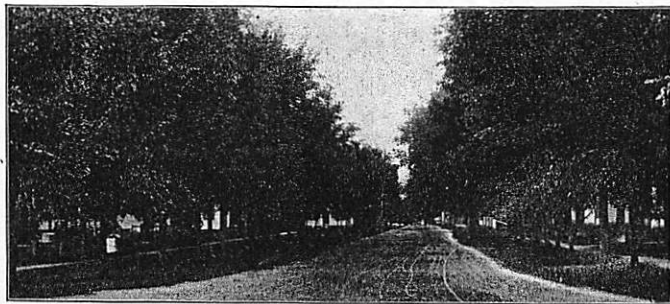
#### Bethel as Viewed by an Adopted Citizen

Then there are the summer visitors, who coming out of the heat and dust and grime of the city, feel a very Edenic joy settle upon their souls as they enter the portals of our favored village. From these friends rise peans of praise that delight the hearts of our natives (and incidentally raise the price of board.) But there is a third class, that on the whole is likely to be most fair in its estimate; not too coldly critical nor too fondly flattering, the resident from abroad, who, after summering and wintering in the village, meeting its people in and out of season, in pleasant and stormy weather, in agreement and disagreement, socially, financially, politically, educationally and religiously, gives his judgment. This man having no inborn predilections has the best view-point; his opinion is likely to have the least bias and to be the most kindly judicial. How does Bethel appear to its adopted citizen?

From a scenic standard, Bethel grows upon the newer resident. Its chief glory is the surrounding hills and mountains; these are not grim sentinels, but first appealing to the sentiment of awe by their majestic beauty, as we come to know them better through the evolution of acquaintance and appreciation, become our beautiful and noble friends, with whom we hold an uplifting, tender and dignified communion. The mountain beauty is accented by the broad, smiling interval, the winding river, and the placid lakes that mirror the woodlands fringing their banks. Every walk and ride amid these scenic glories causes the adopted child of Bethel to become more and more enamored with his new home.

"But the winter, cold and desolate winter!" We, the newer citizens of Bethel do not know it! Our friends who live further south and west, write pitying our condition, and we read the commiserating epistles, knowing that the joke is on them. Our winters are a little longer than theirs, but warmer than either Boston or New York, with their chill damp air that well

high congeals the marrow in the bones. We often step from the white of winter to the green of spring; while the resident in the so-called milder climate, gropes his way slowly from one reluctant season to the other. We, the imported citizens, have known both experiences, and we prefer the real thing; the virgin white of the snow with the fadeless evergreen, the cheerful music of the sleigh bells, the invigorating crispness of the cold, dry air, the freeze and the frost; then the speedy transfiguration to our glad springtime. The assurance of spring is given in the rapidly melting snow drifts, the unbinding of the frozen streams, and the visits of our most daring bird neighbors. Then the ever new birth of old Nature takes place. There are the first up-spring-



A Part of Broad Street

will be so indelibly photographed upon your mind and soul that it will never fade as long as memory lingers, and you will exclaim anew at the wonderful handiwork of God, whose ways are indeed, past finding out.

Amid such surroundings, and helped by the sturdy self-reliance derived from simple, out-door, country life, Bethel may well continue in the future as in the past, to send out men of character and ability to represent her in the wider activities of the world at large. From within her borders has gone a governor for a western state; an author whose works shall have an influence after the writer has passed from sight of mortal eyes; ministers of the gospel who exert a mighty influence; business men whose honesty and integrity are as firm as the



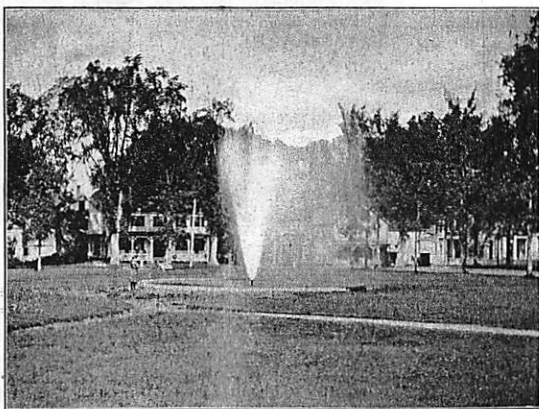


A Portion of Church Street

ings of grass and flower; there is the tender shading of the early verdure, the everchanging light and shade, as the capricious breezes send the clouds scudding across the sky, drawing their shadow chariots over mountain, hill and valley. Then the summer bearing little of languor but bright and beautiful, calling us out to the resinous woods, to the hillside and mountain top, and after the labors and pleasures of the day guaranteeing us rest, as the delightful coolness of our summer nights brings Nature's great restorer. The fall season! Who can paint by brush or word, the autumn glory! green and gold, russet and purple, with all their intermediate shadings and the silver gleaming of the white birch mingling with them all. These accented and modified by wonderous cloud effects, and crowned with the supernal glory of our magnificent sunsets! We who have been introduced to all this scenic beauty, sigh for no Swiss or Italian scenery, and think from time to time, that we catch a foregleam of the never fading glory that lies beyond.

What does the new citizen think of the civic and social sides of Bethel? Well, folks is folks the world over. To say that the people of this village are New Englanders would, indeed, be no poor commendation; yet there are differences in New England communities. Some are good but extremely slow; some are made almost unendurable by the prevalence of spiteful gossip; some are sharply divided by rigorous caste; some are run down at the heel. None of these impeachments could be sustained against Bethel. This village has the spirit of progress; improvement is the order of the day. Its stores keep up-to-date goods; its streets are cared for; its houses kept in repair and improved upon. The people are neighborly and kindly, and withal industrious. The caste spirit obtains little recognition; the social status is high; evils are not long tolerated, and the cultivation of mind and manners is highly prized. The new resident observes that educationally Bethel is to the fore. Beside a well equipped public school, Gould's Academy, now an historic institution, presided over by an efficient and honored principal, offers ever-increasing advantages to this and the surrounding villages.

The religious life of Bethel is seen to be above the average. The maintenance of three churches, while (in common with many other places) showing greater division of ecclesiastical interest than is for the highest good, also evidences a live interest in church life. Each of the three churches are on the whole, well supported, and exercise a strong influence for good on the community; they are not places for



Fountain on Bethel Common

worn out ministers, but demand life and vigor in their pulpit ministrations, and prove an inspiration to the old and new residents, and to the visiting friends.

The observant, sympathetic, imported resident of Bethel, after mature consideration gives it as his opinion, that it stands in the front rank of the many good New England villages by its surpassing scenery, its up-to-date spirit, its social, educational and religious privileges, commends itself to the newer as well as the old time resident as a good place to live in. With attractions that appeal to the finest and best in the appreciative soul, it wins his interest, sympathy and hearty co-operation for the making of a fuller, broader life and prosperity in its promising future.

CHARLES N. GLEASON.

"Why do you go? What is the attraction? I hear it is a pretty place enough, but what else?" That is the volley of questions which someone is sure to fire at me every year as regularly as the blossoming of a strawberry, and as regularly, it makes me ask the question of myself, Why do I go?

For the fishing? Hardly. Trout streams there are, and I know well most of them. But there are others. Hunting? Still less; although Oxford County is renowned for bears, and it was once current-

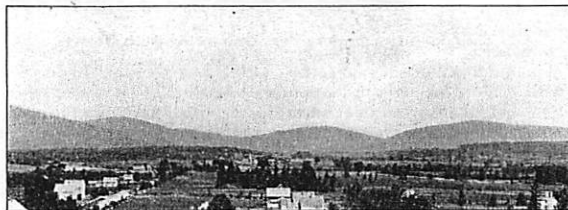


A Bethel Snow Scene

ly reported that a prominent Bethel druggist had been chased out of his own house-garden by one in the middle of the night, proving but to be a neighbor's horse after a lunch of sweet corn. Grandeur? No. One is not gazing at a mountaintop at an angle of forty-five degrees. What then?

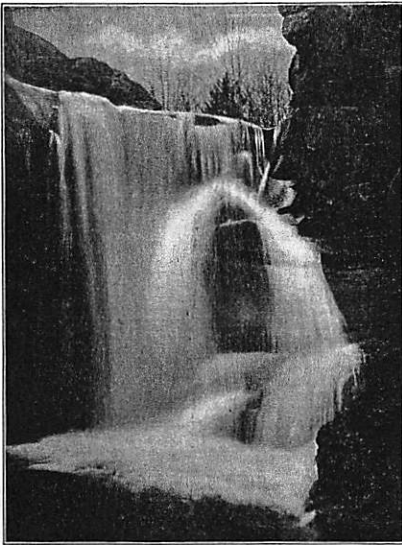
First and foremost, I think it is the sweet restfulness of the place. The wholesome air of an upright inheritance. Think, O parents, of a town of over two thousand population, with half a score of hotels in it, public and private, yet neither saloon nor bar! Imagine a town of that size where such has prevailed for, say, half a century; where education and tree-planting have gone hand in hand; where hoodlums are not; where music is revered;—and where the solid man in overalls shakes hands heartily with the man in broadcloth, and each knows the other to be a good man and true. How much this means to the one who is a-weary of the strain and fighting in the outer world.

We can get elsewhere the whirl of fashion in silks and satins; we can find other places where men and women go and appear to have left their brains behind. But those who come to Bethel, year after year, those



A View from the Academy Belfry

who engage their favorite room a year in advance, for the most part are those who bring their souls with them to the mountains. For them this broad, deeply indented valley, ringed around by the rolling mountains miles away has a charm of loveliness beyond all other spots. The unpretentious village uplifted on its central plateau is not shut in by crowding peaks. The eye has free range for miles on miles before the earth climbs skyward to a forest-crest, or to some massive dome of everlasting granite.



Screw Auger Falls

The gleam of the Androscoggin lights up the interval, that broad, undulating plain battle set with regiments of choke-cherry, sentinelled here and there by a towering elm. And north, south, east, west, man walks or drives and watches the shifting panorama of the hills assured that he cannot get lost, yet need never return to his starting point by the road he came. And ever, from most points his eye strays back to those pale blue masses that mark the Presidential range on the western, high horizon line.

Once each year, I aim always to drive southerly for a mile or two, dismount, and climb the easy slope of Mt. Abram. I aim always to take with me one or more unspoiled strangers within our gates; to keep them employed in busy, merry chatter up the long Paradise Road, down the steep pitches to the further valley, through the forest twilight of the Rabbit Road till it is time to dismount at the farmhouse planted like a lichen far up the mountain's flanks. Then, when they have cast their first curious glance around the nearby view and their eyes casually, perhaps indifferently are lifted somewhat, the gasp, the stunned expression, the dawning of delight as they find themselves gazing down, far down into that mighty bowl among the blue mountains with the village nestled at the bottom, is worth all the trouble and subterfuge necessary to keep the curtain down until the proper time for it to rise. The upward climb from thence is a mere nothing, as a climb.

Just a stroll across fields, and up a somewhat steep and ledgy pasture, with a scrap of woodland thicket to thread through at the end. But once there! I know no other view that to me is so uplifting of the soul! Do I wish a thought of solitude, sheer silence of the wilderness? Only a few rods through the thickets and we are thrust out into the open to look down, down the long southern valley, forest-clad to the mountaintops, an emerald setting to the linked chain of lakes sombre with shadow, or agleam like polished steel. Silence broods above it. One gets there what one takes there, as always; but the silence like mists around the treetops hides the jagged spurs that fret, and naught is left to sight but—peace. Then are we prepared to go back; out of the thickets to the west, to let our eyes travel down the long mountainside across the wide valley, up among the rolling hills beyond, higher, higher, to where the far horizon goes shouldering up-



Another View of Church Street

ward to meet the sky twenty-five miles away through the clear keen air, Adams, Jefferson, and towering upward above them all our grand old mountain—Washington. The hours pass away like minutes. They seem to leave no more mark than the cloud-shadows hurrying across from dome to dome. Yet now, a six-month afterward their thoughts come back to me. I see again the visions I saw then, their rest-giving grandeur in their night and calm. Then, after a space, back I turn to the work of the day in the whirl of life and business, the clatter and clang of the world, with a soul refreshed and ready for more battling with that duty which may come next.

And this is why, each year, one man goes back to Bethel, for fresh strength like Antaeus, from the uplifted lands.

4 Park St., Boston.

JOHN PRESTON TRUE.

### Bethel Library Association

The enormous increase in reading at the present day scarcely needs demonstration. It is shown by the rate at which books are thrown on the market. They follow one another so rapidly it is impossible to discriminate the latest, and one writer recently styled the out-put of books—"a literary deluge."

When the Bethel Library Association was organized twenty-five years ago this winter, books were not as easily obtained. If one person purchased a new book, it went the rounds of the neighborhood. If the current literature was to be indulged in to any extent, one must be connected with some circulating library in one of our nearby cities, and have the books sent by mail or express. Perhaps, had it not been for this inconvenience the Bethel Library Association would not have been in existence to-day. It is a woman's organization, and strange to relate, it was organized before the invasion of the "club woman," therefore we cannot say "It is the logical outcome of Club influence."

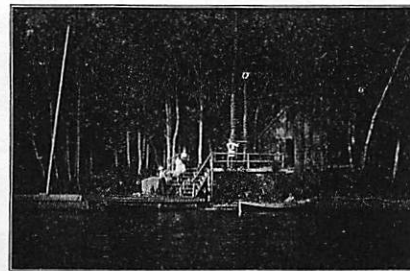
The story is briefly this. Early in the autumn of 1878, a number of ladies who were regular patrons of the Mercantile Library in Portland, finding it inconvenient and impracticable to continue their subscriptions, began agitating a home Circulating Library. There was no opposition and very little encouragement. After agitating this scheme for several weeks with little success, a course of lectures upon historical subjects was suggested. Straightway the late Dr. N. T. True, to whom Bethel is greatly indebted for many public enterprises, was consulted and invited to give a course of lectures upon Ancient History, but Dr. True thought such a venture would prove unpopular, and the force of his argument was convincing, but not wholly discouraging to woman's perseverance. After a little more thought another suggestion was given favor, and which proved a real inspiration. For the second time the same ladies called upon Dr. True and presented their plan for a series of popular, parlor lectures.

This plan met the hearty approval of Dr. True and he generously offered to give two lectures, Hon. David Hammons, William E. Skillings and Rev. A. Bosserman each one, and the musical talent of the village one concert. The ladies most active in this enterprise were Mrs. David Hammons, Miss Annie Cross, Miss P. M. Buxton, Mrs. G. P. Bean, Mrs. W. O. Straw, Mrs. S. F. Gibson and Mrs. Ceylon Rowe; others stood ready to give assistance at the given word. Parlors were opened, and a most interesting and helpful lecture course was enjoyed. The course tickets were one dollar, and the holder of this ticket became a member of the Association for one year, in due time. In April 1879, at a public meeting held in the parlor at the Bethel House, an organization to be known as The Bethel Library Association was perfected. Since that time up to the present, the Association has maintained its identity. The support of the Association comes through a small membership fee, and an occasional entertainment. At different times the town has voted fifty dollars toward its support, and the late Hon. O. H. Mason presented the Association with one hundred dollars, the interest to be drawn annually.

Mr. Almon T. Rowe and others have also contributed to its support.

At present there are about three thousand volumes. There is a very good collection of reference books, valuable beyond price, donated by thoughtful friends ever mindful of their home town nestled here among the mountains and picturesque hills. Such combination of circumstances, together with good-will, public spirit, and executive ability, has brought about the institution and final success of The Bethel Library Association.

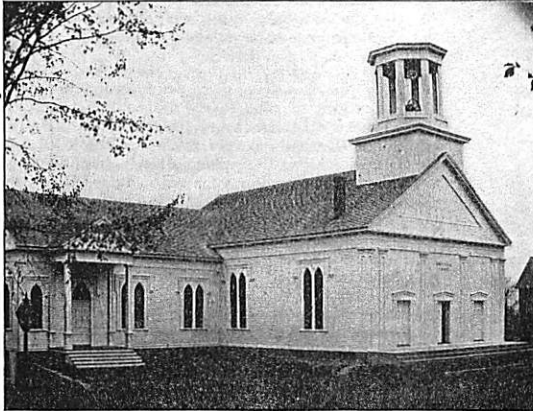
ANNIE M. FRYE.



Echo Camp at Songo Pond



## The Churches in Bethel Village



First Congregational Church

Prior to the incorporation of the town in 1796, religious worship in Bethel as in almost every other place, was of an itinerant character, the first regularly organized society being that of the First Congregational Church on Sept. 8, 1799. In 1818, a Free Baptist society was organized and in 1844, a church edifice was erected at West Bethel, and dedicated the following year. Many of the early settlers were of the Calvinist Baptist denomination, and a society was organized in 1795, and incorporated as the First Baptist Society, and with varying success has struggled along, the society in later years worshipping in the so termed lower meeting-house at Bean's Corner.

### The First Congregational Church

The First Congregational Church was organized in 1796, when Maine was still a part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Its first pastor, the Rev. Daniel Gould, (in honor of whom the present Academy was named) was installed Oct. 9, 1799, with a salary of \$160, one-third payable in cash, and two-thirds in produce. The church at that time comprised eleven members. In 1806, the first church edifice was erected on the banks of the river, about thirty rods from the toll bridge, and completed in 1816. The building was nearly square with a hip roof, surmounted by a wooden cupola, from which projected a pole surmounted by a wooden model of a rooster. In 1847, the present church edifice was erected on Church St. and the former church abandoned. The Rev. Mr. Gould continued as pastor until 1809, but from that period until 1819, the church was without a regular installed pastor, although from 1809 to 1815, Rev. Valentine Little was acting pastor, Rev. Timothy Hilliard from the latter date to 1817, and Rev. Henry Sewall from July 20, 1819, to May 11, 1820, followed by the installation of Rev. Charles Frost, Feb. 20, 1822, who continued as pastor until Feb. 11, 1850, since which time there has been no break other than changing pastors; the present pastor, Rev. Charles N. Gleason, has been identified with the society since 1902.

When the present meeting house was built in 1847, there being no bridge across the river, the members of the society on the north side felt it a grievance to be obliged to cross the river and come up to the Hill to attend church. It was determined by them to organize a church of their own, and to this end they erected a house of worship in '48, and on Jan. 31, 1849, a council consisting of representatives from Congregational churches in Farmington, Wilton, Fryeburg, Sumner and the Bethel Hill church, after due consideration, voted to sanction the new organization. This church called the Rev. Daniel Garland to be its pastor and enjoyed a prosperous life for forty years, during which time they were faithfully and efficiently served by the same pastor. The two

churches were however, in spirit one, the river being the only dividing line; and after the death of Rev. Garland, and because of the thinning out of population, services were discontinued on the north side of the river, and the members returned to the Bethel Hill church, in which they have in later years, as did their fathers, proved loyal, consistent members. It might truly be said of the Congregational church, that it has been the most potent religious institution and influence in the history of the village. It has ever been composed of and supported by leading citizens of substantial means and

character, while its women have been noted for their intelligent, faithful and loving service in things temporal and spiritual. Holding to the fundamentals of the Christian faith, its history has not been marred by narrow sectarianism, and as the theological thought of the succeeding years has broadened, this church has kept pace with the liberality consistent with revealed truth, and maintained the spirit of charity and fellowship with the other churches. The present condition and outlook of the church (with a membership of one hundred twenty-five, a Sunday school of sixty, an earnest and active Christian Endeavor Society, and an enthusiastic Ladies' Club) is gratifying. A new and modern parsonage was built last year at a cost of forty-four hundred dollars, and the people are working to take care of the unpaid remainder of this sum, and with united spirit for the increase of membership and efficiency of their beloved church.

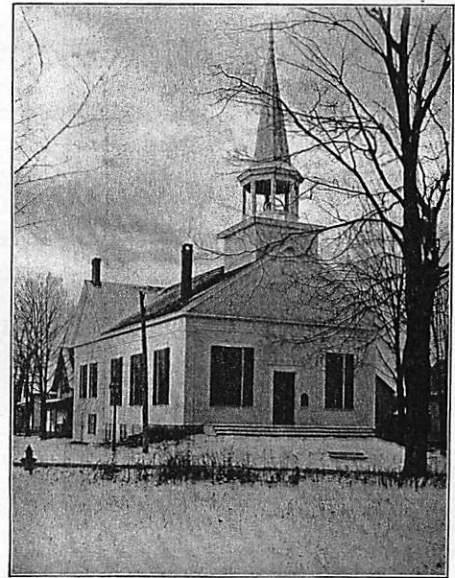
### Rev. Charles N. Gleason

Rev. Charles N. Gleason was born in Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 16, 1856, but his childhood was spent at Long Island, N. Y., as his parents removed there during his infancy. He attended the public



Rev. Charles N. Gleason

schools also Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass., from which he was graduated in 1884. The training for his life work was acquired at the Bangor, Me., Theological Seminary; upon graduating from this institution he went directly to Deer Isle, Me.,



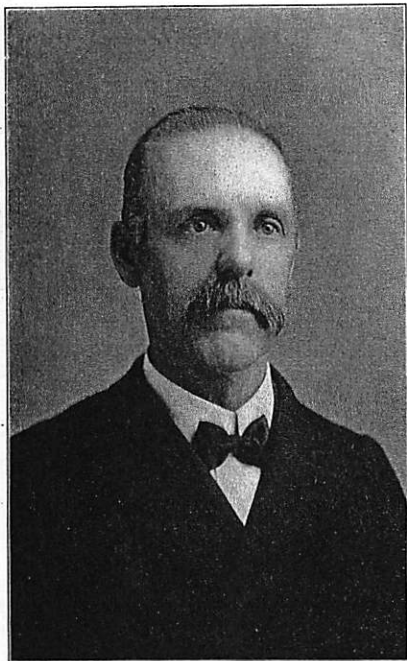
Universalist Church

where he was pastor of the First Congregational church for three years, resigning, in 1890, to accept a call to Wells, Me. In 1892, he was called to Edgartown, Mass., where he remained four years. In 1896, he was installed pastor of the church at Patchogue, the most important Congregational church on Long Island, outside of New York city. There he remained for five years, until the church at Bethel extended an urgent call, which he accepted in the spring of 1902. The present pastor of this church accepts and delivers the gospel message, without bondage to the letter; believing its spirit to be the power of God unto salvation. His preaching is marked by frankness, earnestness, and a well balanced optimism.

As a citizen he is interested in the social, educational and civic life of the community, with a strong love for country, and a firm belief in the great law of evolution, as an assurance of the world's progress. In 1887, Mr. Gleason was united in marriage with Miss Angeline J. Snook of Brooklyn, N. Y., an associate with him in the New England Congregational church. Two daughters were born to them; the youngest, Edith, was called home, when five years old; the first-born lives to fill her place in the home, school, and church life.

### The Universalist Church

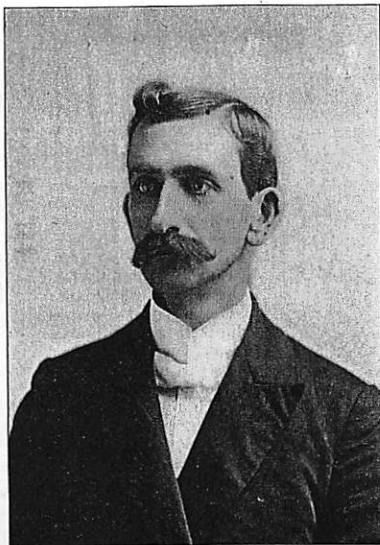
Although from the first settlement of the town there have been many of its residents who were believers in the liberal faith, it was not for half a century after the incorporation of the town that the first Universalist society in Bethel was organized and came into corporate being. For many years those who cherished this belief attended other churches in town, but with the lapse of years, the increase of population, the general broadening out of men's thoughts, the number of adherents to the faith became more numerous, and in 1847, Joseph Twitchell and seven others became incorporated under the above name. The new society, however, had no religious home and, for six years, services were held in schoolhouses and other public buildings as occasion and circumstances admitted. Among those who allied themselves with the organization were Joseph Twitchell, Dr. Almon Twitchell, Joseph A. Twitchell, Albert H. Gerrish, Charles Mason, Moses Pattee, Benjamin Freeman, Hiram Young, Eber Clough, Oliver H. Mason, Gen. C. S. Edwards, Ira C. Kimball, O'Neil W. Robinson and Albert Stiles. Of these the only survivor is Mr. Chas.



Rev. F. E. Barton

Mason. During the year following the incorporation of the society, Rev. Geo. Bates preached several times in the Academy and occasional services were held by other ministers of the faith. The Universalist church was erected in 1853, and in 1854, the first settled pastor of the society, Rev. Zenas Thompson, entered upon his work. Rev. Mr. Thompson was pastor for five years, and during his administration the society grew steadily in strength and influence and numbered among its supporters a good proportion of the staunch citizens of the town. Mr. Thompson was considered one of the ablest ministers of the time and was everywhere recognized as a deep thinker, a logical reasoner and an effective pulpit speaker. He died at his home in Deering, Me., Nov. 17, 1882. Rev. Absalom G. Gaines succeeded Mr. Thompson and did much to extend and popularize the faith. An exemplary christian, he lived the religion which he preached, and his pure life and character raised him high in the estimation of all regardless of church affiliations. Dr. Gaines later became president of St. Lawrence University, Canton, N. Y., where he remained until his death about two years ago. After this pastorate the church was for a time supplied by Rev. Ezekiel W. Coffin, the pastor of the Bryant Pond church. Rev. John F. Simmons was also for a time settled over the church and then the pastorate was assumed by Rev. William Bosserman who continued for seven years.

Having become much weakened by deaths and removals, the society did not call a successor to Mr. Bosserman until 1889, when a renewed interest sprang up, and a call was extended to Rev. F. E. Barton who had graduated that year from Canton Theological Seminary. A young man of ambition and recognized ability, Mr. Barton entered upon the work of reorganizing the society, and right earnestly did he give himself to the work. He was aided by the hearty co-operation of the people, and in less than two years the parish had grown into a flourishing condition; the number of families had more than doubled; a strong Sunday School had been organized; an enthusiastic Young People's Union had been formed; a devoted interest developed; and the church edifice had been thoroughly repaired and improved. Receiving a flattering call to the larger parish at Mechanic Falls, Mr. Barton accepted it and remained there two and one-half years, during which time Rev. F. K. Beem was pastor of the Bethel church. Mr. Beem resigned and Mr. Barton received a unanimous call to



Rev. A. D. Colson

return. Accepting the call, he again entered upon the work of the society and gave it the advantage of his increased experience. Since the time of Mr. Barton's first coming, a new chapel has been built, a pipe organ installed in the church, and a furnace put in. Mr. Barton continued as pastor until the spring of 1903, when he was appointed State Superintendent of Universalist Churches, which position he now occupies. This office is a most important and responsible one and the fact that Mr. Barton was called to fill it, shows the estimate which the State Board places upon his ability and standing in the denomination. Soon after Mr. Barton's resignation, the society called Rev. A. D. Colson of Kenduskeag, who is at present its pastor. Mr. Colson has but recently moved here and has not yet fully entered upon his regular work. He is much liked, and is an able and effective writer and speaker. He comes to the parish highly recommended, and a prosperous future is predicted for the church.

#### Rev. Frank E. Barton

Rev. Frank E. Barton was born in Saco, Me., June 20, 1852. His education was acquired in the public schools of Boston, graduating from the High school in 1868. His parents in the meantime had removed to Brownfield, Me., and after his graduation he associated himself with his father, learning the trade of a carriage painter. Later, desiring a theological education, he attended the Seminary connected with the St. Lawrence University of Canton, N. Y., from which he was graduated in 1889, coming to Bethel. On July 25, 1890, he was ordained pastor of the Universalist church of Bethel, and with the exception of the years 1893-5, when he was pastor of the Universalist church at Mechanic Falls, he has retained his connection with the Bethel church until his appointment as State Missionary of churches of the Universalist denomination, in the spring of 1903. Mr. Barton is an earnest church worker, which is shown by the fact that when he assumed charge of this church there were but few members and practically no organization, while now it has a much increased membership and a live, working Sunday school. While doing very efficient work as State Missionary, he still keeps in close touch with the parishioners; he occupies a pretty residence adjoining the church on Church street, where his family consisting of his wife and two children, a daughter and son, reside.

#### Rev. A. D. Colson

Rev. A. D. Colson, who last spring succeeded to the pastorate of the Universalist church, was born in Hampden, Me., May

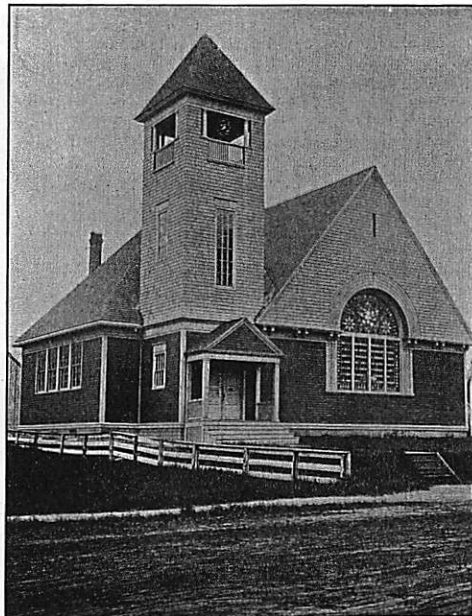
22, 1866, and was educated in the public schools of Winterport, the Bucksport Conference Seminary, and in the Seminary of the St. Lawrence University of Canton, N. Y., from which he graduated in 1896. His ordination occurred in Minden, Montgomery county, N. Y., the same year, and 1897, he assumed the pastorate of the Kenduskeag Universalist church, embracing also within its jurisdiction that of Exeter Mills, where he remained until his acceptance of the Bethel pastorate.

#### The Methodist Episcopal Church

In the special issue of the BETHEL NEWS, published June 10, 1896, Methodism in Bethel received so generous attention in an article by Rev. A. Hamilton, that a shorter "write up" seems all that is necessary for the present issue. From some old records, as quoted in Allen's History of Methodism in Maine, a very fervent and Methodist ejaculation is found, which concerns the Bethel circuit. These words were spoken by Rev. Joshua Taylor, presiding Elder of the large district of which the new circuit (Bethel) was a part. "It now appears that from the time in which they were united in 1798 (Rumford and Bethel), there has been some awakening; but there were nothing of great note, till a preacher was stationed among them; and although at some times the prospect has been gloomy, glory to God! there has been a great work for several months past, and I trust a number has been truly converted. May God bless and prosper the circuit." This prayer was uttered May 22, 1801.

It might be interesting to pause and ask if from the history of events the prayer of the grand old presiding Elder has been answered? There were fourteen members at the beginning; to day the records show one hundred and twenty actual full members, nineteen probationers and sixteen who are marked as "removed without certificate," but who nominally hold their relation still with this church. It is expected that a few will join on probation during January, 1904.

The records at hand show that during the years from about 1870 to the present, nearly four hundred different persons have been connected with this church. Unfortunately records previous to 1870 are not at hand, but probably three hundred others were affiliated with this society from its birth to that date. Since 1887, one hundred and twelve persons have been baptized in this church, twelve of whom were infants or young children. Since 1885, one hundred and forty persons have been received on probation, so that the reasonable supposition is that at least the larger part of that number were converted during that time. Forty-seven have died since 1885, and seventy-four have



The M. E. Church



been transferred from us by certificate. It would be of great satisfaction if the records of the years previous to this dates mentioned above were at hand. Does any one in the society know where they are? If you do, please send word to the pastor. Not the least among the important items found on the records is that showing that since 1887, ninety two marriages have been solemnized by the pastors of this society. The largest number of members recorded at any time was four hundred and eighty six, during the associate pastorate of Caleb Fuller and I. Downing, while the circuit comprised Bethel, Rumford, and other towns. Since Bethel has been a separate charge, the largest number of members reported was two hundred and twenty-two, during the pastorate of Benjamin F. Pease in 1881. The next highest was in 1896, when one hundred and ninety-seven were reported, but in both these cases members of adjoining churches which were temporarily a part of the Bethel circuit, were included.

To day the Bethel circuit can report a membership of one hundred and eighty-seven, one hundred and fifty-six of whom (as above stated) belong to Bethel Hill church, but only about fifty-six of this number are resident within the limits of Bethel corporate village, the others being scattered from one to six miles out. The amount contributed for the regular benevolent enterprises from this church since 1885, is nearly \$2000, the largest amount for any one year being \$215 in 1897, during the pastorate of Rev. A. Hamilton. There have been seventy-five pastors of the church since 1800, one of whom, Rev. Daniel Wentworth, was the grandfather of the present pastor's wife, Mrs. F. C. Potter. The church has the following organizations with these officers:

TRUSTEES:—C. Bisbee, Chairman; H. H. Annas, Secretary; I. S. Morrill, Treasurer; C. O. Foster, N. F. Brown.

STEWARDS:—C. H. Davis, S. J. Hazeltine, C. K. Fox, I. H. Wilson, A. H. Hutchinson, I. S. Morrill, C. O. Foster, E. L. Arno, Fannie W. Bisbee, Addie L. Andrews.

EPWORTH LEAGUE:—Forty-five members. Mrs. C. K. Fox, President; Ethel Morse, Secretary.

LADIES' AID SOCIETY:—Mrs. H. H. Annas, President.

W. F. AND A. M. SOCIETY:—Mrs. Kendall, President.

JUNIOR LEAGUE:—Mrs. Kendall and Miss Morse, Supts.

SABBATH SCHOOL:—H. H. Annas, Superintendent.

### Rev. Frank C. Potter

Rev. Frank C. Potter, pastor of the Bethel M. E. Church, was born in North Bridgton, Me., April 25, 1868. He acquired his education in the public schools and Bridgton Academy, graduating from the latter in 1885. He supplemented his academic work by theological training in the Maine Confer-



Rev. Frank C. Potter

ence Itinerant Institute. Mr. Potter has found his work extremely pleasurable and it has culminated in fruitful results in every instance. His first charge was in the towns of Fryeburg and Stowe, where he was located in 1889-90, followed by an

assignment, in 1891-92 to the West Cumberland circuit. His first ordination was at Brunswick, and his second was at Westbrook in 1893. In 1894-95, he was assigned to the Poland and Minot circuit, West Durham and Pownal in 1895, and Berlin, N.H. in 1896-97. From 1898 to 1902 he was pastor of the Eliot, Me., parish, and in 1902-03 was at Kezar Falls, coming to Bethel, in 1903. Mr. Potter is a practical adherent of the church militant, and during his stay in Bethel, has not only made many friends but has instituted needed reforms that have

awakened a new interest in the church and the church work. Being thoroughly alive to the needs of the Sunday School, he has graded the school; the Epworth League has also been re-organized and at the present time both of these branches of the church work are in a flourishing condition. On August 19, 1889, Mr. Potter married Florence Whitcomb of Fryeburg, and they have four children: Clifford William, Frederick Elbridge, Frank Eliot, and Herman Wesley.

## The Public Schools

Wisely, indeed, did our fathers build in the good old days of long ago, and wisely too, have the generations since, managed the educational affairs of the town. Bethel is, as those who have spent any time in the town know, a town that furnishes unusual opportunities for those seeking an education. Quietly nestled among the hills, where the boys and girls are away from the exciting life of a large village or city, and where the associations are with an educated people, in the main, what better place to rear our children can be found than this village? The wee mite of humanity just taking its kindergarten work is no more under the home influence than the youth and maiden who are taking the last examination before entering upon a college course.

Changes many and varied there have been since the first school was established in 1800, but every change has been for the better until now our town schools rank favorably with those of any town in the State. Since 1836, the town has had an Academy, giving those who desire more than a common school education, a rare opportunity for study.

Like all cities and towns, Bethel has its rural schools, but the name rural need not bring to the mind of the reader the idea that they differ materially from those of the village proper. Since the law in regard to transporting pupils has been in force, the number of schools has been lessened until now there are but ten schools outside the village; the buildings are all modern and equipped, in nearly every case, with all that is necessary for the good

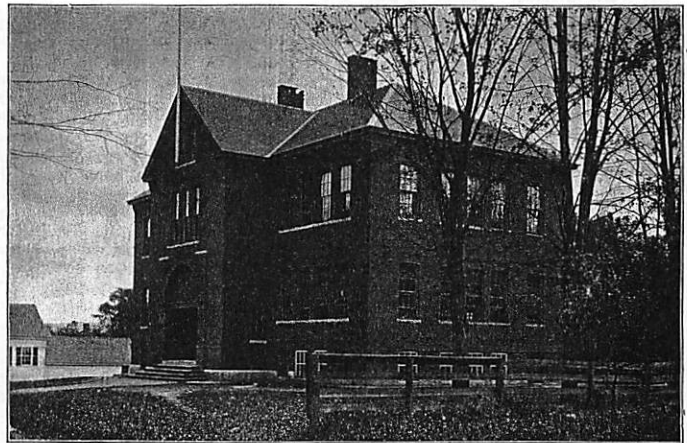
work of pupils and teachers. The selection of teachers is carefully made and such thorough work done, that the pupils are admitted to the Academy with as high rank as those from the graded school.

When the present so-called Town System was introduced, the citizens of Bethel decided to unite the

two schools of the village, one of which was located on Broad street and the other on Mechanic street, and erect a building which should be a credit to the town and an inspiration to the pupils. Accordingly measures were taken and the brick building on High street was erected at a cost of \$15,000.00. This building is second to none as regards design and structure, and it affords ample accommodation for the village pupils and those whom it is necessary to bring from the nearby districts. Through the earnest efforts of superintendents and school boards, the system of work has

been so perfected that no pupil need go forth to fight the battle of life without a thorough common school education. The people are keenly alive to all that is for the interest of education, they fully appreciate the fact the education of our youth is the great safe guard of our civilization, that the children of today are the ones who must soon come forward and assume the responsibilities of both public and private affairs, and no measure for the betterment of pupils and schools is ever turned aside by our loyal citizens. At the present time there are four teachers employed in this school: Miss Jane Howard Gibson, grammar; Miss Eva Twaddle, intermediate; Ruby Clark, second primary; Miss Ethel Richardson, first primary. The number of pupils attending this school at the present time is about one hundred and fifty. The teachers labor for the best interests of the school and modern methods of instruction are closely followed. A few years ago, through the energy of the superintendent and the teachers, assisted by contributions from citizens, a new piano was purchased for use in the school work. The town schools during the past year have been under the supervision of a School Board consisting of Miss Susie B. Twitchell, N. F. Brown, Chas. F. Abbott, and H. H. Hastings, superintendent.

Since the adoption of the "Law for the better education of Youth" passed by the last Legislature all pupils prepared to take secondary work are en-



The Grammar School Building

titled to enter the Academy without expense to themselves. By this law, Gould's Academy opens its doors to our pupils and those who chose are fitted for college without going from home. Our people do we believe, realize what this means to our boys and girls. Here at home under the best of influence, they can take in as they take in the breath of life, the lessons that shall fit them for life's work. What has been done in providing these advantages, may they appreciate; using them, their lives will be broad and abundant; without them, they will be dwarfed and crippled.

### Gould's Academy

Gould's Academy has long made Bethel the educational centre of Northern Oxford. In it the people of Bethel and vicinity take a just pride, and toward it they have been liberal in moral and financial support. For more than half a century it has been sending out into the world men and women of character and ability, who have made for themselves an honorable name and reflected credit upon their Alma Mater. Its establishment was the result of that out-reaching toward a better culture and a higher education, which was a marked characteristic of the generation that gave



Gould's Academy

it birth. The first step in this direction was the establishment of a High school at Bethel Hill in 1835. The names of the officers of this High school organization may be interesting. Robbins Brown was chosen president; William Frye, secretary; Robert A. Chapman, treasurer; and Charles Frost, Jedediah Burbank, John Hastings, Jonathan A. Russell, Jesse Cross, John Harris, Ebenezer Ellingwood, Joseph Sanborn, James Walker, and Timothy Chapman, trustees. Dr. N. T. True was principal. Beginning with thirty-five pupils, they had increased to one hundred and twenty-three the second year and had outgrown their limited accommodations.

In 1836, the trustees of the High school asked the Legislature for an act of incorporation as Bethel Academy. The corporators were John Grover, Moses Mason, William Frye, Charles Frost, Jedediah Burbank, John Hastings, Stephen Emery, Barbour Bartlett, James Walker, Levi Whitman, Robbins Brown, Valentine Little, George W. Chapman, Timothy Carter, Phineas Frost, Timothy Hastings, and Robert A. Chapman. The same season saw the first Academy building erected where the present Academy now stands. At its organization the corporation chose Dr. Timothy Carter, president, and William Frye, secretary.

The first principal was Isaac Randall of Dixfield, who afterward became well known at the Oxford Bar and practiced his profession at Dixfield until his death some eighteen years ago. Mr. Randall continued as principal for two years. Since that time there have been twenty or more different principals, but among them all Dr. N. T. True stands forth pre-eminent for length of service and long continued devotion to the welfare of the school. For thirteen years did Dr. True preside over its destinies, and under his tuition the school assumed high rank. During this period the Academy building was filled with students, and some were turned away for want of accommodations. In 1842, the name of the school was changed to "Gould's Academy" in the fulfillment of a provision attached to a bequest from Rev. Daniel Gould. The Gould legacy was about \$800, and was a permanent fund, only the interest being available for

the Academy's use. In 1850, a half township of land was granted by the State, and from its sale the Academy realized some \$2500. In 1855, Dr. John Grover gave the school \$200, as a fund, the income of which could be used for the purchase of chemical and philosophical apparatus. In 1869, the original building was enlarged, and in 1881, it was entirely removed, and the present commodious building erected. Toward the equipment of the new building the citizens of Bethel contributed \$1100, or more. In 1890, the Legislature granted the Academy \$800 a year for the term of ten years. Under the new general law the Academy receives \$750 annually, and may receive \$1000

each year if a Normal course is added. On Aug. 9, 1900, a reunion of the alumni of the school was held at Bethel and was largely attended. At this time quite a substantial sum was pledged toward a fund which it is hoped will sometime be made sufficiently large to place the school on a strong financial basis. Effort has been made to interest men of wealth in the school to such an extent that they will endow it as many similar institutions are now being endowed. Never was there a more golden opportunity for one to bestow money where it will bring an hundred fold return in the lasting good that will result from the gift. No more worthy object can be found in a lifetime's seeking.

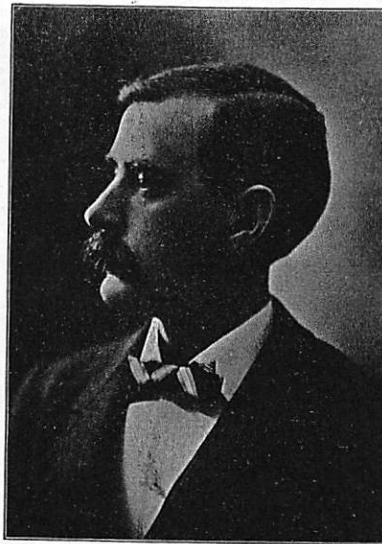
The presidents of the Board of Trustees of Gould's Academy have been as follows:—Dr. Timothy Carter, Dr. John Grover, Dr. Moses Mason, Gilman Chapman, Gideon A. Hastings, and Hon. Addison E. Herrick, the present incumbent. Mr. Goodwin R. Wiley has been secretary of the Board since 1885. The present Board of Trustees is as follows:—Major G. A. Hastings, Charles Mason, Hon. Enoch Foster, Hon. J. M. Philbrook, S. B. Twitchell, Hon. A. E. Herrick, G. P. Bean, G. R. Wiley, J. U. Purington, A. L. Burbank, A. W. Grover, Ceylon Rowe, N. F. Brown, Dr. J. G. Gehring, Calvin Bisbee, Dr. F. B. Tuell, E. W. Barker, Capt. R. B. Grover, Hon. E. S. Kilborn, and E. C. Rowe.

Gould's, like nearly all other academies, has had its discouraging periods. During the years following Dr. True's administration there was a decline in its prosperity, although its officers did all in their power to maintain the prominence it had attained under his charge. To the frequent change of principals much of this loss of prestige may undoubtedly be assigned, as no school can be built up or sustained at a high standard without long continued devotion and sacrifice to its welfare on the part of the man at its head. His heart must be in the work; with him teaching must be a loved and dignified profession and not merely a means to assist him on the road to some other vocation. Adaptation combined with a love for the work are necessary elements in a successful teacher; capacity for arduous labor, power to overcome discouraging conditions; an ever present optimism, may be added, and with all this he must be a good disciplinarian, a successful student of human nature, tactful, resourceful and a good organizer. These qualifications and others requisite to the most successful instructor are found in the present principal of Gould's Academy, Prof. F. E. Hanscom, who assumed charge of the institution

in the fall of 1897. His coming marks a new era in the history of the school. His own inspiration and love for the work seemed to communicate itself to others. A renewed interest sprang up; a renewed prosperity began to dawn; the old-time prestige returned; and after six years of earnest effort, Prof. Hanscom and an efficient board of officers co-operating with him, have brought the institution to its present proud position in the list of secondary schools of the State. The attendance which had diminished to about twenty-five when Prof. Hanscom assumed control, has increased four-fold; the courses of study have been carefully revised and systematized, and the school's methods and ideals are now in eminent accord with the most modern educational standards. Important additions have been made to the equipment of the institution. The library has been greatly augmented; a well supplied reading room is maintained, and an excellent gymnasium provides opportunity for necessary physical training. In all respects is Gould's Academy now in the first rank of similar institutions and richly deserving the success it is enjoying.

That the high standard of the school is recognized by higher educational institutions is evidenced by the long list of well-known colleges to which admission is now granted upon the certificate of the principal of this Academy, among which may be named,—Cornell University, Williams College, Amherst College, Boston University, Brown University, Dartmouth College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College, Tufts College, Wellesley College, Wesleyan University, Bowdoin College, Bates College, Colby College, and the University of Maine. The present Board of Instructors is as follows: Frank F. Hanscom, A. M., Principal: Latin, Geometry, Senior Reviews; A. Mabel Richardson, A. B., Preceptress: Greek, French, History; Lillian A. Norton, A. B., English, Elocution, German; Charles B. Erskine, Algebra, Sciences; Alice L. Billings, Instrumental Music.

No better location for an educational institution can be found than Bethel. The town is progressive. The village is supplied with pure water; sanitary arrangements are excellent; there are excellent church advantages; society is genial and refined. It furnishes a good atmosphere for the



Principal Frank E. Hanscom

mental and moral growth of the student. It is accessible. The institution has passed the experimental stage and is now upon a firm foundation, and is drawing students from all parts of Maine and many from other States. Its present is prophetic of its future and we predict a continued and increasing prosperity. While money does not make a school, yet it does much to augment its usefulness; it provides facilities and places an institution in a position to take advantage of op-



portunities. Gould's needs a fund. Some day the man of wealth will appreciate this need and richly satisfy it.

#### Principal Frank E. Hanscom

Principal Frank E. Hanscom who for somewhat more than six years has been at the head of Gould's Academy, Bethel's well-known educational institution, was born in Poland, Me., and educated in the public schools of that town and at Hebron Academy, from which he was graduated in 1885, as valedictorian of his class. The following year he was elected Superintendent of the Poland public schools, which position he filled with efficiency for five years, teaching all the time in connection with his other work. During his superintendency the North Poland High School was established, and a carefully formulated course of study, combined with a graduating system, was introduced into all the schools of the town, a system which has since continued in successful operation. In 1891, Mr. Hanscom was elected to the principalship of the Oxford High School, where he taught with marked success until 1897, when he became principal of Gould's Academy, a position which he still holds. Mr. Hanscom came to the school at a critical period in its history, but his capability as an instructor, combined with intense earnestness, rare tact and unusual executive ability, soon inspired the confidence necessary for a reversal of the existing adverse conditions, and won for him a support, financial and otherwise, such as had been accorded to few, if any of the predecessors. During his administration the attendance has increased nearly four fold; the school has been placed on a firmer financial basis; the teaching force has been increased and strengthened; the course of study has been broadened; the standard of scholarship has been raised, until the school has acquired such a standard of excellence as to secure the certificate privilege from Cornell University, as well as from nearly all the New England Colleges—a privilege accorded to few of the fitting schools of the State.

In 1892, Mr. Hanscom became proprietor and manager of the Maine Teachers' Agency, the second oldest institution of the kind in New England. In this capacity he has assisted in the selection of teachers for nearly every town in the State, and has been eminently successful in sending the right teacher to the right place. Mr. Hanscom is interested in educational work in general, as well as in all that pertains to the welfare of the community in which he resides. He has served several terms as president of the Oxford County Teachers' Association, is a trustee of the Bethel Library Association, and secretary of the local Village Improvement Society.

At the Bates College Commencement in 1899, the degree of Master of Arts was conferred upon Principal Hanscom by the president and trustees of Bates College. This degree was awarded, to quote the words of President Chase on that occasion, "In recognition of his scholarly spirit and attainments, of his earnest and fruitful devotion to study amid many difficulties, and of his high ideals and efficient work as a teacher and a builder of character."

#### Bethel Water Company

The Bethel Water Company was chartered by the Legislature in 1889. The incorporators were S. D. Philbrook, E. W. Woodbury, A. E. Herrick, Enoch Foster, G. A. Hastings, G. P. Bean, Ceylon Rowe, and W. E. Skillings. The purpose of the movement was two fold, to supply the village of Bethel and vicinity with pure water and to provide fire protection. The corporation was organized Feb. 8, 1890, with the following officers: President, Enoch Foster; Clerk and Treasurer, A. E. Herrick; Directors, Ceylon Rowe, G. A. Hastings, W. E. Skillings, E. W. Woodbury, H. M. Bearce. The most feasible source of supply was found to be the stream known as Chapman Brook, having its rise far up among the mountains which lie northwesterly of Bethel village. The system was constructed in 1890, and water began to flow through the pipes Nov. 1, of that year.

From a reservoir built in the Brook, the water is taken through four and one-half miles of main pipe to the village. This reservoir is one hundred and eighty-five feet above the level of Bethel Com-

mon, and furnishes sufficient head to throw water from the hydrants over the highest building in the village. An efficient fire department was organized and fully equipped by the village corporation. Thirty two hydrants are located on the pipe line in the village, and most effective fire service is afforded. Several times has the capacity of the system been tested by serious fires and in every case it has proven entirely satisfactory. As a result of this excellent service, the insurance rates on village property have been reduced nearly one half.

The present officers of the Company are Enoch Foster, president; A. E. Herrick, clerk and treasurer; Ceylon Rowe, G. A. Hastings, E. S. Kilborn, J. U. Purington, and W. W. Hastings, directors; Ceylon Rowe and F. W. Sanborn, auditors. Mr. G. A. Hastings who from the time of the Company's organization until his resignation about a year ago was its superintendent, is succeeded by his son, Mr. T. F. Hastings.

The controlling motive in the construction of this system was not, as in many cases, profit to its promoters. Those with whom the idea originated, and by whom it was made a fact, were residents and property owners in Bethel, and had in view more than anything else, the interests of the community. Considerable courage was required to initiate and carry to successful completion an undertaking of this kind in so small a municipality at a cost of nearly \$50,000, but those who did it have lived to know the satisfaction and pride felt by the people of Bethel in the system and to participate in the advantages derived from it. Nearly all the stock of the company is owned by residents who have a personal interest in maintaining the system in the highest degree of efficiency. The pipes have been extended through all the streets of the village and the patrons have gradually increased until nearly every house in the corporation is supplied. The Company has always been generous toward the village and its institutions. It furnishes without charge, water for use in all the churches, in Gould's Academy and in the grammar school building. Free supply is also furnished the fountain on Bethel Common. Every precaution is taken to keep the source of the supply free from contamination. The reservoir is frequently cleaned and the outlet is carefully protected with fine wire screens. The Company now owns nearly all the land adjoining and in the vicinity of the reservoir and streams which feed it and all this territory is well covered with forest growth. The supply originates primarily in mountain springs and the water is shown by an analysis made by the Secretary of the State Board of Health to be practically pure. The supply is abundant and never yet has any drought affected it.

That the general health of the community has been greatly benefited by the introduction of this water is evidenced by the fact that since the system was built, those physical disorders which are usually attributed to impure water have decreased in a marked degree. Not only do the residents but also the many visiting strangers bear witness to the superior excellence of this water and it occupies no mean place among the many attractions which annually invite to our midst so many summer visitors. Pure water is one of the first requisites of a desirable summer resort and not only in this respect is it an important factor in the material welfare of the village, but with those seeking permanent homes it is a matter of eminent concern. Pure water, pure air, clean and sanitary surroundings, unsurpassed natural scenery, excellent educational facilities, high moral tone, geniality of the people, and widely acknowledged healthfulness, make Bethel one of the most desirable of places for either permanent or temporary residence.

#### Bethel Savings Bank

The Bethel Savings Bank was organized Feb. 28, 1872, under a charter from the Legislature. Five Trustees were then elected, as follows: O. H. Mason, R. A. Frye, S. D. Philbrook, S. B. Twitchell, and John M. Philbrook. Of these, O. H. Mason and S. D. Philbrook served until the time of their deaths, and S. B. Twitchell and John M. Philbrook have continuously been on the Board. The first President of the Bank was Mr. O. H. Mason, who was succeeded by Mr. S. D. Philbrook, May

28, 1884, and Mr. Philbrook was succeeded by Mr. S. B. Twitchell, the present incumbent, June 17, 1893. Ex-Judge Enoch Foster was the first treasurer, and was followed by Hon. A. E. Herrick, the present treasurer, May 28, 1884. The Board of Trustees is now made up of S. B. Twitchell, John M. Philbrook, E. S. Kilborn, G. P. Bean, Calvin Bisbee, J. U. Purington, and N. F. Brown.

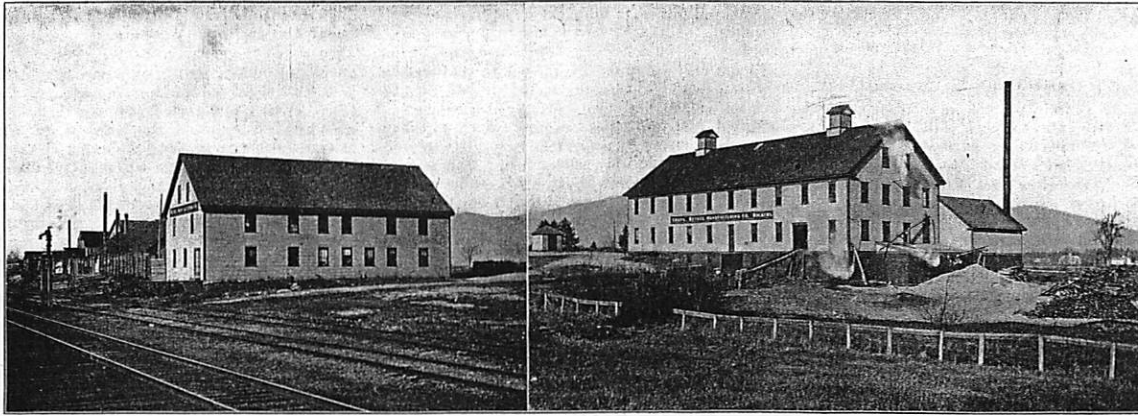
Located in the centre of a large surrounding country, the growth of this bank has been steady. No effort has ever been made by its officers to produce an unhealthy growth by advertising or otherwise. It has always been the policy of the institution to serve the section for which it is the natural business center, but not to reach outside to any great extent. In 1884, when Judge Herrick assumed the position as treasurer and Mr. Philbrook that of president of the bank, the deposits were \$99,082.13, and the surplus fund \$646.57. At the present time the deposits amount to some \$385,000.00, with a surplus of about \$16,000.00, the total assets of the bank being above \$400,000.00. The last report of the bank examiner, made in May last, estimates the value of the Bank's assets to be some \$35,000.00 above all liabilities. This is assumed to be the liquidating surplus of the Bank at that time.

The institution has always had as its officers, men who rank among the first business men of this section; men who have made a success in their own business and demonstrated their capacity to successfully manage a public institution of this kind. The management has been conservative from the start; it has always been its policy to look first to the safety of the principal and let the matter of dividends follow. A high grade of investments has been sought and a glance at the list making up its present assets will disclose the fact that they are as sound as practical business judgment can make them, nearly \$150,000 being first class real estate mortgages; \$140,000, high grade municipal bonds; some \$27,000, National Bank stock; \$12,000, first class railroad bonds, with the balance equally as good. The Bank owns no real estate by foreclosure, and in its entire history has met with but two losses on its real estate mortgages, and these were so insignificant as to deserve notice only as an exception to the rule. During the past few years the deposits have made an average annual increase of \$25,000, which is somewhat more than the normal growth of the institution should be from its immediate territory, but the high standing of the institution has attracted unsought patrons from outside, and in many instances large deposits coming from without the Bank's legitimate territory have been refused.

In 1890, the Bank removed to its present commodious quarters in Cole Block from the building now occupied as a public library on Broad street. Later the Bank came into ownership of the Block and has since made many changes and improvements in it. This real estate is a good paying investment for the Bank at the price paid.

Two years ago the interior of the banking rooms was completely remodeled and a new fire-proof vault installed. The business of the Bank had outgrown the safe which had been in use for many years, and better facilities were required for the protection of the many valuable books and papers which had accumulated. The new vault is large enough to satisfy the demands of the business for years to come and in every way meets the requirements of an up-to-date banking institution. The vault is supplied with a double steel chest within and double vestibuled doors without; and is equipped with a modern time lock. It is thus rendered not only fire proof but burglar proof. The institution, however, keeps very little money or securities in its vault, its cash being kept on deposit in National Banks and its securities all being in the safety deposit vaults in the city, so that it offers very little incentive to burglars.

This bank is recognized as one of the strong financial institutions of the State and is not only a credit to its past and present management, but also to the community in which it has grown up, and with its present sound financial condition as a basis and the universal confidence of the people in its conservative management, its prosperous future seems assured.



Mill and Finishing House of the Bethel Manufacturing Company

### Bethel Manufacturing Company

One of the largest industrial factors of Bethel is the plant of the Bethel Manufacturing Company, manufacturers and jobbers of fancy, upholstered and plain rockers and chairs. The buildings as shown above are, on a plot of some ten acres of ground just north of the Grand Trunk Railway station. This industry was established in 1886, by James H. Barrows, who for twenty-six years prior to the establishment of the business in this town, was engaged in a similar enterprise in West Paris. In 1887, the plant was incorporated as the Bethel Chair Company, with Mr. Barrows as president, J. U. Purington, secretary, and H. G. Brown, treasurer; this in 1890, was merged into the Bethel Manufacturing Company; the officers at the present time are James H. Barrows, president and superintendent; F. H. Young, secretary, and W. H. Winslow, of Portland, treasurer and general manager. Until its destruction by fire in July 1898, the finishing department was located in the "Old Rink" on Main street; following this unfortunate event the building now used was erected. This is a two-story and a half building 125x40, which aside from the office on the main floor, is thoroughly equipped for the manufacture of chair stock, also lumber, spool stock and shingles in all of which material the Company deals. Across the way from this building is another of practically the same size within which are the finishing and shipping departments. The general office is also located in this building.

The saw mill in connection with the factory, has a capacity for the manufacture of 20,000 feet of lumber per day and a shingle machine of 10,000 capacity in the same time. An 80 h. p. engine serves as the motive and heating power of the plant, all waste material from the mill being used for fuel. Centrally located is a hose house equipped with 250 feet of two and a half inch hose, which with the excellent hydrant service of the town, affords ample fire protection.

The supply product of the Company is largely obtained from their own timber possessions, thus furnishing employment during the winter months to a large number of men and teams. The manufacturing plant employs from forty to sixty hands during the entire year.

W. H. Winslow, treasurer and general manager of the Bethel Manufacturing Company, is one of Portland's most enterprising and best known business men, and is the executive head of the firm of W. H. Winslow & Co., manufacturers of and wholesale and retail dealers in furniture and bedding of every variety, and to his untiring energy and indomitable will is due largely the prosperity and rapidly expanding business of the Bethel plant.

Mr. Winslow was born in Yarmouth in October 1855, and having acquired an educational training in the public schools, came to Portland when but seventeen years of age, to enter mercantile life, being at first employed in a subordinate capacity, and subsequently entering business in a modest way for himself, which through a strict applica-

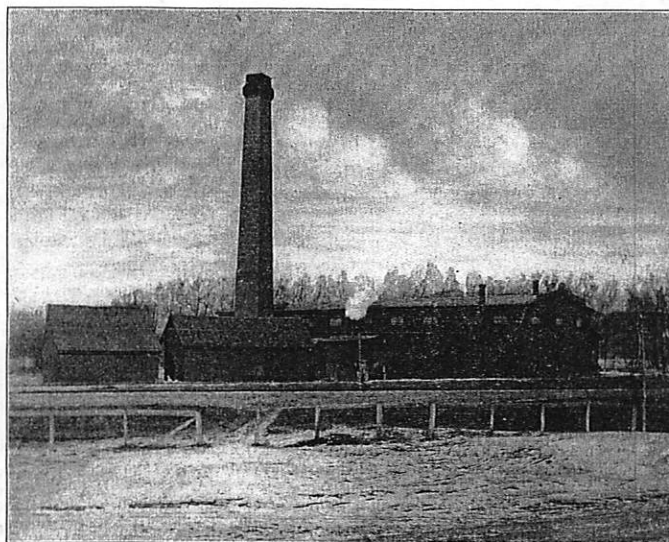
tion of business principles, unceasing enterprise and energetic efforts, has resulted in a mercantile establishment second to none in the Forest City. In the years he has been identified with Portland's business interests, he has acquired considerable real estate, and that upon which stands the establishment of which he is the proprietor, is sought by the County Commissioners as a site for the new County Court House. His application of the vigorous business tactics to the Bethel plant, combined with his able assistants has wrought beneficial results creditable to the management, the town and its allied interests.

Mr. J. H. Barrows, superintendent of the plant, has been identified with the chair manufacture in one capacity and another since boyhood, and apart from draughting his own designs, is thoroughly conversant with every detail of manufacture. He is a veteran of the late Civil war, having been a member of Company F. 23rd Maine Volunteers, and since becoming a resident of Bethel, has been an earnest advocate of all measures pertaining to the welfare of the town; he is deeply interested in church work.

### J. P. Skillings

The large spool plant of J. P. Skillings, located about one-half mile above the village proper, is and has been for many years, a considerable factor of the manufacturing in Bethel. Mr. Skillings is the son of the late Hon. David N. Skillings of Medford and Winchester, Mass., an experienced

member of the lumber manufacturing fraternity of New England, who transmitted to his sons, W. E. and J. P. Skillings the business sagacity, enterprise, and progressiveness which has enabled them to bring to the fore a business which is of incalculable value to the town and surrounding country. Prior to 1869, at which time W. E. Skillings assumed control, the present spool factory, and a smaller structure utilized as a box shop, were the property of the Bethel Steam Mills Company, manufacturers of lumber and dowel stock. The business remained intact under Mr. Skillings' management until 1880, when the saw mill occupying the larger of the two buildings was fitted up as a spool factory. In 1873, Mr. Skillings installed a saw mill supply plant at Gilead. This was purchased by J. P. Skillings in 1883, and operated by him until 1885, when the brothers formed a copartnership, the two properties being amalgamated under the title of W. E. and J. P. Skillings. In 1890, the entire business was absorbed by the American Bobbin, Spool and Shuttle Company, the junior member of the former firm retiring, and the senior becoming secretary of the Syndicate. A year later, the American Company having become hopelessly involved, J. P. Skillings returned, and acquired possession of the property, which under his skillful management has grown to its present proportions. The plant occupies some twenty-two acres of land through which the Grand Trunk Railway runs, and from which emanate convenient sidings. Here are located, north of the railway, a spool factory 140x40 feet, with an adjoining structure devoted to general utility purposes, and a steam operating plant equipped with a 250 and a 75 h. p. engine, the latter sufficing for present purposes. The factory is equipped with all the latest devices including improved automatic spool machines, installed by W. E. Skillings who is also the patentee of a head



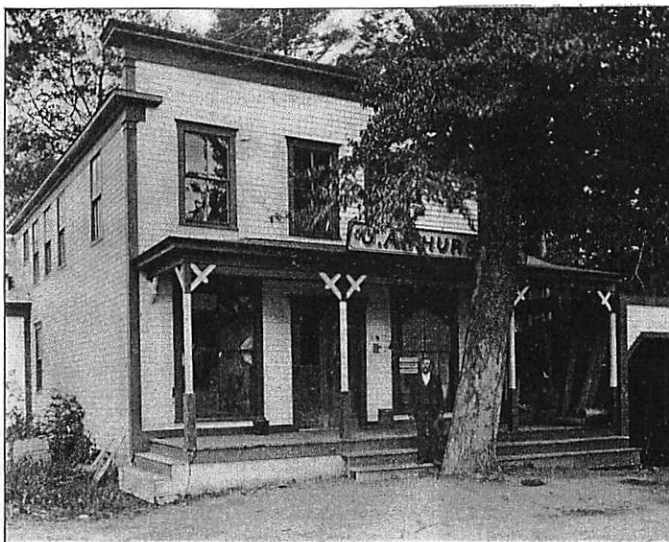
J. P. Skillings' Spool Mill



locking bull spool which is unique and convenient. To the novice, the process of spool making is novel and interesting. The birch bolts which are about four feet in length, are first sawed into bars, which in turn are cut into rounded blocks, and then dumped into large hoppers attached to the finishing machines from which the spools are turned out with astonishing rapidity. The output of the Bethel plant approximates 25,000 gross per month, the spools varying in dimension from 200 to 12,000 yards silk or cotton thread winding, requiring the consumption of from 500,000 to 700,000 feet of white birch annually. The spool stock is largely supplied by a saw mill plant installed at Redding in Sumner about a year since, and operated by a 60 h. p. engine. These two plants furnish employment to some fifty hands, the larger percentage being employed in Bethel. In addition thereto Mr. Skillings manufactures and deals in lumber and dowel stock, this and the spool product being largely secured from his own timber lands, furnishing additional employment to a large number of men and teams during the winter months. Connected with the Bethel Manufacturing plant are four dry kilns of an aggregate capacity of 80,000 feet of spool stock and a dye house for the coloring of spools, this being one of three similar plants thus equipped. South of the railway and skirting the highway, are several storage sheds, a commodious stable, a general store, eight cottages and a boarding house in which are the general offices. The exterior of these several structures, with a semblance of uniformity is attractive, and the surrounding grounds are kept scrupulously tidy thus imparting to the settlement an air of general thriftiness.

#### J. A. Thurston

One of the most successful of Bethel's business men, and one who has encountered more of the adversities of life than usually falls to the lot of man, and has recovered therefrom solely through his own energy and indomitable will, is Jacob A. Thurston, general trader, lumberman, and manufacturer of spool stock, dowels, and staves. Mr. Thurston is a descendant of sturdy New England stock; he was born in Eaton, N. H., Nov. 15, 1843, moving with his parents while yet in his infancy, to Errol, N. H., where he remained until twenty-two years of age; when not attending school, he labored on the farm in the woods, assisting materially in supporting a family of ten children, of which he was the eldest; yet he saved an honest penny now and then, and in 1875, had accumulated enough to engage, in a small way, in lumbering for himself, by the purchase of timber lands bordering the Androscoggin. His operations were confined to the logging of spruce, which business he extended as fast as opportunity permitted. In 1881, he partially relinquished timbering and entered business as a general trader at Newry, succeeding Calvin Bisbee. Subsequently he purchased the spool stock and dowel manufacturing plant of John Wyman, rebuilt it and with a 40 h. p. engine still continues its operation. A few years later he acquired a similar plant on Sunday River in Riley Plantation, which later was destroyed by fire and never rebuilt. In 1893, Mr. Thurston began operations as a manufacturer of spool stock, dowels, staves in connection with a general wood-working plant, at Swan's Corner. This was destroyed by fire in May last, involving a loss of \$6,000 upon which there was no insurance. Nothing daunted however, he rebuilt the plant and placed it in operation with a 50 h. p. engine and boiler in July following. These two plants in conjunction with a similar plant operated by water power at Frye, furnish employment to from 40 to 60 hands and manufacture upwards of 2000 cords of birch and hard wood in a season. In 1891, Mr. Thurston purchased the farm in Mayville, where he now lives, but still remained a resident and general trader of Newry until 1897, when he erected a store and storehouse opposite his residence in Mayville into which he moved his family. In May, 1900, his entire set of farm buildings was destroyed by fire involving a loss of \$10,000 with but \$3,000 insurance. The buildings destroyed were soon replaced by more modern ones, but he had barely recovered from this loss when, as previously stated, his mill at Swan's Corner was destroyed.



Store of J. A. Thurston

troys. This was followed in September by the burning of the mill boarding house at Swan's Corner. Added to all this Mr. Thurston at one time in association with others, encountered a heavy loss by business reverses, but has pluckily continued and at present not only successfully operates the plants alluded to, but operates one of the best and most completely stocked general stores to be found in the county. Mr. Thurston was for many years first selectman in Errol, N. H., and was for ten or a dozen years, town clerk and treasurer of Newry; was also postmaster of that town fifteen years. He was married to Miss Flora Dinsmore of Colebrook, Jan. 1, 1879, and they have three children; the eldest, Maud, graduated from Gould's Academy in 1900, and is at present a student in Bates College; Ruby, who is at home, and Paul, a student in the Academy.

#### Isaac S. Morrill

Located on and practically spanning Mill brook on the Grover Hill road at the foot of Mill hill, is the lumber mill of Isaac S. Morrill. Mr. Morrill was born in Raymond, Me., and he came to Bethel from Albany about ten years since, and purchased the property of which he is at present the owner and operator. This property comprises a fully equipped saw mill, two spool stock manufacturing plants, and a storehouse which was formerly the saw and grist mill founded by Joseph Twitchell and son over a century ago, and the carding mill and starch factory of Eber Clough, a few rods above the saw mill plant on the same stream, and formerly the property of Eben S. Kilborn. All of the property is in good condition, the saw mill and spool manufacturing plant being of modern design, and equipped with the latest improved machinery and fixtures, including a shingle and spool stock machine, with a capacity for the manufacture of 10,000 feet of lumber, 8000 shingles, and sixteen cords of spool stock per day operating power being furnished from the stream upon which the plants are located; the busy season furnishes employment to many hands.

#### Frank C. Bartlett

On the Grover Hill road at the foot of Mill hill, are the carriage manufacturing and repair works of Frank C. Bartlett. This occupies a large two-story building, on the lower floor of which are wood-working and setting-up apartments and a complete and modernly equipped blacksmith shop. The paint and varnish rooms and a storage and general utility apartment are on the second floor, the whole making a very convenient and complete establishment. Mr. Bartlett is a native of Winthrop, but has been a resident of Bethel since he was sixteen years of age. A few years prior to the war he entered this same establish-

ment as a journeyman, it then being under the control of the late Pinckney Burnham who had acquired possession thereof from the late Moses T. Cross, who in the latter part of the eighteenth century erected and utilized the building as a carding mill, the carriage-smithing business succeeding thereto, upon the removal of the carding mill farther up stream. Mr. Bartlett enlisted and served in the 4th Me. Battery from 1861 until 1865, and upon his return to Bethel resumed a position

with the concern, finally purchasing the entire business some twenty-five years since. He is a thorough master of his trade, and with able assistance in the various departments, is prepared to manufacture road or farm wagons, pungs and sleighs, and to execute any character of repair work whether of iron or wood. He also does an extensive carriage painting business.

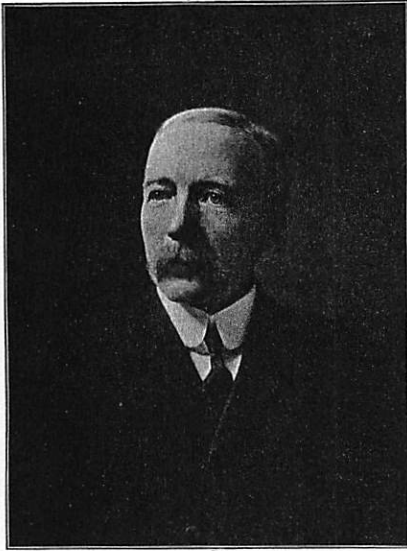
#### Herrick Brothers

A recent addition to the industrial element of Bethel, is the machine shop owned and operated by Messrs. A. W. and G. M. Herrick, under the firm name of Herrick Brothers. The Herricks are natives of Greenwood, and apart from the acquirement of a general comprehensive knowledge of their present calling through connection with mechanical plants elsewhere, are natural born mechanics. One result of their inventive genius is an improved automatic spool machine, which has not only been the subject of much favorable comment, but has been adopted by spool manufacturers in this vicinity. For a number of years the Herrick Brothers were identified with the mechanical department of E. L. Tebbets' spool mill at Locke's Mills, during which time they were constantly perfecting a knowledge of general machine work. In 1890, they entered business for themselves at West Bethel. They soon outgrew their quarters there and Mr. Calvin Bisbee of Bethel built for their especial use the large two-story building which they now occupy on High street in this village. They have a strictly up-to-date plant equipped with new and modern machinery, and one that is second to none of its kind in Oxford county at least. The manufacture of automatic spool machines, erecting engines, plumbing and steam piping, and general machine repairing constitute their chief work, though any character of work requiring the services of a machinist will receive prompt attention at their hands.

#### E. E. Randall

On Main street just at the foot of the hill, is located the boot and shoe store of E. E. Randall, who engaged in business here about five years ago, and whose trade has increased until the stock, which it is necessary for him to carry to satisfy his many customers, is so large that it cannot be conveniently handled in his present quarters. Mr. Randall is a native of Wilton, and for ten years was identified with the shoe business of Beverly, Mass. His stock not only comprises a complete line of the Olympian shoe for men, the Radcliffe shoe for women, but a large line of rubbers, fancy slippers—with a specialty of children's sizes—soles for crocheted slippers, and in fact everything usually found in a shoe store; he also does repairing in an up-to-date and satisfactory manner.

## Professional and Business Men



**Judge A. E. Herrick**

Judge A. E. Herrick, son of the late Benjamin and Maria Garland Herrick, was born in Greenwood, Me., June 24, 1847. Like many of the other prominent men of the State, his early life was spent upon the farm, but in those early years of toil the foundations of a true and noble manhood were laid. When but a boy he determined to have a college education and this determination was sustained by persistent effort; he attended Gould's and Hebron Academies and was graduated from Bowdoin College in 1873. While taking his preparatory course and attending Bowdoin, also following his graduation, he taught with marked success.

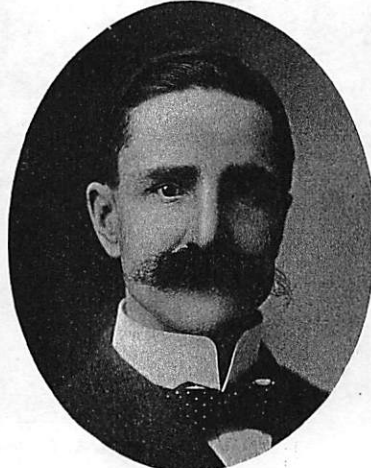
As regards Judge Herrick's professional training, he read law with Hon. Enoch Foster at Bethel and was admitted to the Oxford Bar in 1879. After his admission to the bar, he formed a partnership with Judge Foster which continued until Mr. Foster was appointed Associate-Judge of the Maine Supreme Court. In 1890, Judge Herrick and Ellery C. Park, Esq., formed a law partnership which continues at the present time. In 1899, he was appointed Judge of the Oxford Probate Court, and elected to the office in 1900. This position he is eminently qualified to fill as he is naturally careful and painstaking in all matters and impartial in his judgments.

In all matters of interest to our town, Judge Herrick gives his cordial and active support and by so doing has won the respect and esteem of his townsmen. He served as Representative to the State Legislature in 1891, and as Senator from Oxford county in 1893. Since 1884, he has been Treasurer of the Bethel Savings Bank and Treasurer of the Water Company since its organization in 1890; he is also President of the Board of Trustees of Gould's Academy. His judgment has made him successful in his own business affairs and the same judgment exercised with as much carefulness for the town's interest, has many times made him a valuable official. June 19, 1882, he married Miss Mary D. Chase of Bluehill and they have two daughters, Miriam and Margaret. They reside on Broad street and have one of the most attractive homes in the village.

### **Ellery C. Park, Esq.**

Ellery C. Park, Esq., junior partner of the law firm of Herrick & Park, with offices in the Savings Bank building on Main St., was born in Mexico, Me., Jan. 7, 1864, the son of Henry W. and Eleanor Reed Park. His education was acquired in the public schools, Farmington Normal School, Dixfield and Hebron Academies, graduating from the latter in 1887, since which time he has been a

resident of Bethel and closely identified with its interests. He read law with Hon. A. E. Herrick and was admitted to the Oxford County Bar in October, 1890. In the same month he formed a part-



**E. C. Park, Esq.**

nership with Judge Herrick and they have since done business in Bethel under the above title. On Dec. 9, 1890, he married Miss Mary I. Stearns of Paris, Me., and they have one daughter, Muriel Stearns Park, born Feb. 18, 1897.

Mr. Park is and always has been a zealous advocate of all principles and measures pertaining to the welfare of the town, and is a firm believer in Bethel's future prosperity. He has always been a staunch republican and has rendered loyal service to his party; has been chairman of the Republican Town Committee for eight years; chairman of the Republican Legislative District committee for twelve years, and was chairman of the Republican County committee in 1898 and 1899. In 1900, he was elected County Attorney for Oxford county, and re-elected in 1902. In this capacity he has served faithfully and well; he has been a fearless prosecutor of all crime and has been especially persistent in the strict enforcement of the Maine Prohibitory Law in which he thoroughly believes. He served for several years as Treasurer of the Bethel Chair Company, and is at the present time Secretary of the local Board of Health.

### **Henry Harmon Hastings**

Henry Harmon Hastings, Bethel's youngest attorney, was born in Bethel, Mar. 25, 1865, and is the son of St. John Hastings, a well-to-do farmer, and the grandson of Timothy Hastings, one of the first settlers of the town, and prominently identified with its public interests. Mr. Hastings, the subject of this sketch, was educated in the public schools and Gould's Academy, from which he was graduated in 1886. He entered Bowdoin College, graduating therefrom in 1890. In 1891, he was principal of the Cherryfield Academy, resigning to accept the position of sub-master in the Pawtucket (R. I.) High school. Later he read law with ex-Judge Foster in Bethel, also with Foster & Hersey in Portland, and was admitted to the Oxford County Bar in October, 1899. He at once began the practice of his profession in Bethel in the law office of the late Richard Frye, and ever since has had an increasing clientele. Mr. Hastings has been Superintendent of Schools since 1900, and has labored with much zeal for the present high standing of the town schools.

### **Dr. R. G. Wiley**

This patriarch who may be safely called the Nestor of the Maine Medical Association, was born in Fryeburg, Nov. 11, 1807. He studied medicine with Dr. Ira Towle of Fryeburg and Dr. John Grover of Bethel, where he began practice in

1835. Dr. Wiley has been more exclusively devoted to the practice of his chosen profession than most physicians, and has had no time to engage in public affairs. For more than sixty years he was ready to respond to any call, but for the past five years, the weight of many years has allowed him to engage in office practice only.

Dr. Wiley married Abigail B., daughter of Col. Thaddeus Twitchell of Bethel, and they had seven children. One son, Dr. P. Cleveland Wiley, became a noted physician and able surgeon, but lost his life by drowning while attempting to answer an urgent professional call in the Magalloway region. Another son, G. R. Wiley, Bethel's veteran druggist, and Miss Mae Wiley who has devoted her life to her father's comfort, are all that remain of his family.

### **Dr. John A. Morton**

Dr. John Addison Morton was born at Muscongeus Harbor, Bristol, Me., Nov. 10, 1834, and lived with his father until twelve years of age; from that age he made his own way in the world. He obtained his education at the district and high schools of Bristol, Yarmouth Academy, Westbrook Seminary, and the Maine Medical School, Bowdoin College, graduating in 1862, entering at once upon the practice of medicine at Cooper's Mills, Whitefield, Me. Dec. 8, 1862, he was appointed Assist. Surgeon of the 24th Me. Vols. and joined the regiment at East

New York the 10th, where he was on duty taking care of the sick till the regiment went South on the steamer Lizzie Southard, Jan. 12, 1863, leaving him behind to care for two or three hundred sick in three different



**Dr. John A. Morton**

hospitals. Feb. 7, he was ordered on board the old sailing ship West Point, with all then fit to go forward, constituting the "remainder of Banks' Expedition" and sailed for New Orleans, arriving there Mar. 7. He rejoined his regiment at Bonnet Carre and was at the siege of Port Hudson; after its surrender he came to Augusta, but too ill on his arrival to enjoy the reception and banquet tendered by the citizens. For more than two years he suffered from malaria and other diseases incurred in the army, doing but little; in the spring of 1866, left Cooper's Mills and started a practice at Brettun's Mills, Livermore. He came to Bethel Sept. 13, 1867, and bought the house where he now resides. Feb. 29, 1876, he lost his first wife, Miss Donna Coggan of Union, and July 22, 1880, he married as his second wife, Miss Amanda A. Frye, daughter of the late Hon. William Frye.

During the thirty-six years he has lived in Bethel he has been handicapped by frequent attacks of illness, constantly increasing in frequency and severity rendering his practice irregular and uncertain, until at last he was obliged to relinquish the field and for the past seven years has been confined to his home and room, often prostrated and brought near death as his friends and physicians have supposed, yet has as often revived and still lives, full of hope and calmly waiting the final muster out of the ranks of this life into those of the comrades and friends who have preceded him.

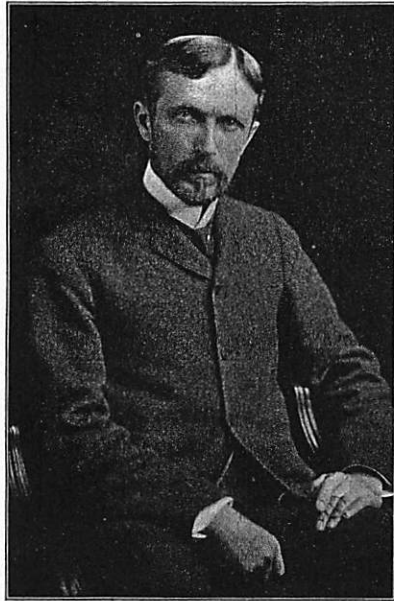


Before he left Cooper's Mills, Dr. Morton was made a Mason, and became a member of Bethel Lodge soon after coming here; later took the degrees in Oxford Chapter R. A. M. and Templar degrees at Lewiston. He is a member of Mt. Abram Lodge, I. O. O. F.

#### Dr. John George Gehring

Dr. Gehring began his professional life in his native city, Cleveland, Ohio; he is a graduate of Western Reserve University, and was a professor in Wooster University, Ohio.

In taking up medical work in Maine, he has made the treatment of nervous diseases his life-work. His practice is not local, but is drawn from throughout New England and the Middle West.



Dr. John George Gehring

In his marked scientific tastes, and in his love for botany and landscape gardening, Dr. Gehring is singularly like his father-in-law, Dr. Nathaniel T. True, upon the site of whose beautiful old family homestead, destroyed several years ago by fire, Dr. Gehring's home now stands.

Looking down beautifully shaded Broad street, it stands further back from the street than did the old mansion, and is surrounded by extensive and carefully kept lawns, which are broken by rare shrubs and trees, and brightened by flower beds and borders, the arrangement and perfection of which give Dr. Gehring his greatest relaxation from professional cares. The entrance to the place is through a driveway bordered by maples, planted years ago by pupils of Dr. True.

The enthusiastic lovers of Bethel, who not only fill Dr. Gehring's home but overflow into neighboring homes, add much to the interest and variety of our village life; and this little hamlet among the hills has through these visitors, a widespread reputation of which Bethel may well be proud.

Dr. Gehring married the second daughter of Dr. Nathaniel and Susanna Stevens True, Mrs. Marian Farnsworth, whose son, George Bourne Farnsworth, is Dr. True's only grandson. After graduating from Bowdoin and visiting Europe, he is now in the Harvard Medical School, thus influenced by the inherited scholarly and scientific tastes of his two grandfathers, and the environment given by his step-father, Dr. Gehring.

#### Dr. G. L. Sturdivant

Dr. Gardiner L. Sturdivant was born in Westbrook, Me., Mar. 1, 1873, and is the son of William and Maria Fowler Sturdivant. His education was acquired in the public schools of Cum-

berland and at Fryeburg Academy from which he was graduated in 1894. From his youth he studied



Dr. G. L. Sturdivant

with a desire to enter the medical profession, but many obstacles confronted him among which ill health was the foremost. Overcoming all, however, he entered Bowdoin (Medical) college, completing his course in 1899. The same year he located in Bethel where he has since resided and where he has a good

#### Dr. I. H. Wight

Dr. I. H. Wight was born in Milan, N. H., Mar. 28, 1875, and is the son of I. C. Wight and Philanthia L. (Howard) Wight. He attended the public schools of his native town, Berlin High School, and Kent's Hill Seminary, graduating from the latter in the class of 1897. Attended the Wesleyan University of Middletown, Conn. one year and subsequently entered the University of Vermont from which he graduated in 1901.



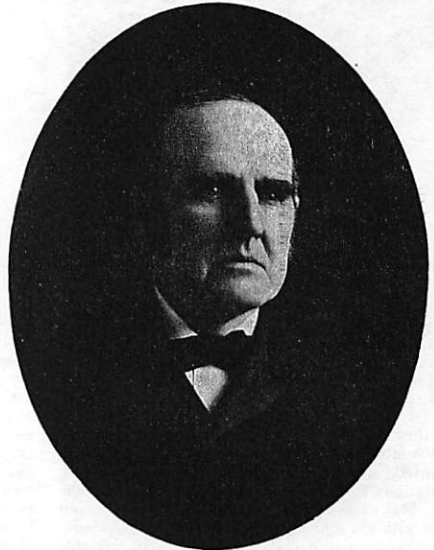
Dr. I. H. Wight

In August, 1901, he began the practice of medicine in East Corinth, Vt., and in March, 1902, came to Bethel where he has been very successful in his work. He is a member of the Maine State and Oxford County Medical Associations. Dec. 15, 1898, he married Miss Angie L. Paine of Milan, and they have one daughter, Vivian Adelia Wight, born July 12, 1903. When Dr. Wight came to Bethel, he purchased the C. M. Wormell stand on Main St., where he resides and has his office.

#### Hon. John M. Philbrook

Included in Bethel's coterie of public spirited citizens is Hon. John M. Philbrook, who though a citizen by adoption, is nevertheless imbued with that spirit of loyalty characteristic of all its townspeople and who is always to be found actively identified with all interests that are for the benefit of the town or its citizens. Mr. Philbrook was born in Shelburne, N. H., Apr. 9, 1840, and is the son of Harvey and Susannah (Wight) Philbrook.

He was educated in the public schools and Gould's Academy, and became a resident of Bethel in 1862. For a number of years he devoted his attention to farming and in a limited manner to lumbering, but for several years has been a dealer in cattle, sheep, and swine, shipping all such to the Boston market. These are purchased of farmers and cattle raisers and often number 500 head of cattle, twice as many calves, and a large number of sheep and hogs each year. He occupied the Eames homestead at the "Meeting of the Waters" of Sunday river with the Androscoggin, one of the best farm properties on the middle interval, until 1895, when he left the management of the farm to his son, Fred J. Philbrook, and purchased the Gilman Chapman estate in the village. This is located on the crest of Main street hill and commands superb



Hon. John M. Philbrook

views of the surrounding mountains. The buildings were removed therefrom, and a handsome modern residence, surrounded by beautiful, well-kept grounds, enhances the attractiveness of Bethel's main thoroughfare. Although Mr. Philbrook's business requires his close attention, he has found time to serve his political and business associates both wisely and well. He was a member of the State House of Representatives in 1893, and of the Senate in 1903. He served as County Commissioner six years previous to 1903; he is a director of the Bethel Water Co., a member of the Board of Trustees and Loaning Committee of Bethel Savings Bank, and a Trustee of Gould's Academy. These are all positions of responsibility and trust and require men of sound judgment and much executive ability to fill them to the satisfaction of all interested. Mr. Philbrook has done this, and won a place second to none in the ranks of Oxford county's business men. Generous, but with the discretion of a true business man, his purse is always open for any worthy cause, be it of a religious, educational or municipal interest; not only his own town but some of the smaller towns around can vouch for the generosity of this honored citizen. Mr. Philbrook married, Jan. 1, 1862, Miss Pauline E. Eames and they have two children, Edith A., the wife of Dr. F. I. Brown of South Portland, and Fred J.

#### Major Gideon A. Hastings

Major Gideon A. Hastings, a native and resident of Bethel, whose ancestors are numbered among the few sturdy pioneers, to whose courage and untiring perseverance the town owes its existence, has combated and successfully conquered as many of the vicissitudes of life as are usually allotted to man. As a civilian or soldier, Mr. Hastings has ever acquiesced to the behests of his fellow beings, with a grace characteristic of the loyal American. Major Hastings was born Feb.



Major Gideon A. Hastings

18, 1821. After acquiring an education in the public school and Gould's Academy, being one of its first students, he became associated with his father, the late John Hastings, in blacksmithing, and later with Woods and Horner, constructors and contractors on the Grand Trunk. He invested largely in timber lands and power privileges in this section and northern New Hampshire, which later resulted in financial disaster. Nothing daunted, however, he again resumed lumbering operations in association with his brother, the late Maj. David R. Hastings of Fryeburg, and later with his son David R. Hastings of Auburn. They have acquired large holdings of valuable timber lands, including largely the Batchelder grant.

Nov. 15, 1861, Major Hastings enlisted as a private in the 12th Me. Vol. Infantry and was subsequently promoted to Captain of Co. A, of the same regiment. In June, 1863, he was commissioned Major of the 12th Me., and took part in all the campaigns of that organization, which were assigned to the Department of the Gulf, and was present at the surrender of New Orleans. He also participated in the Shenandoah Valley campaign, and after the surrender of Savannah, Ga., was appointed Provost Judge, subsequently serving as Military Marshal of West Georgia, with headquarters at Thomasville. Later, he was appointed agent of the Freedmen's Bureau for Southwestern Georgia, with headquarters at Albany, and was empowered to administer the oath of allegiance. He was mustered out of service, April 26, 1866, and having acquired a liking for the South, he purchased a plantation with a view to settling, but was obliged to relinquish all aspirations in this direction owing to Southern malarial troubles. As a public citizen, Major Hastings has been called upon to fill numerous positions of honor and trust which he has done with much credit. He served as Town Clerk in 1850-51, and as a member of the House of Representatives in 1852. He was a member of the Board of Selectmen in 1870, 1871, and 1872, the last two years as chairman, and again in 1883. He was County Commissioner one term, is a director of the Bethel Savings Bank, and was Superintendent of the Bethel Water Company for fourteen years and President of the Board of Trustees of Gould's Academy, fifteen years.

#### Eben S. Kilborn

Eben Shaw Kilborn, one of Bethel's most respected citizens and business men, was born in Harrison, Me., July 1, 1846. In 1854, he came with

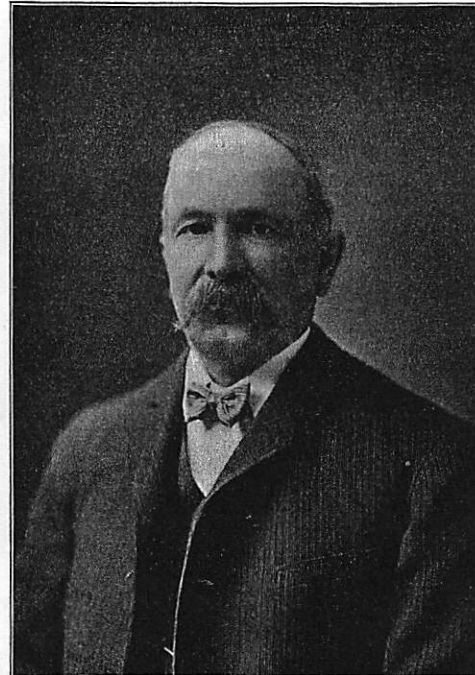
his mother to West Bethel and settled on a farm. His education was acquired in the public schools, with an occasional term of private tutorage. By farming and being employed in the woods for half a dozen years, he saved a sum of money sufficient for the purchase of a half interest in the old grist mill on Mill brook at the foot of Mill hill. Mr. Kilborn soon purchased the remainder of the property and dealt in flour, grain and mill feed. A later possession was the saw mill adjoining, which was displaced by a new mill, the dam rebuilt, and the building equipped with machinery for the manufacture of long and short lumber. In 1892, Mr. Kilborn disposed of this property and purchased the Clough carding mill a few rods farther along the same stream, built a new and substantial stone dam, and reconstructed the mill fitting it with machinery for the manufacture of spool stock and dowels. This property he sold some years since, to the purchaser of the saw mill, though he still deals in lumber, spool stock, pulp wood and cord wood. Mr. Kilborn early began to invest in timber lands and has continued to do so until at present his holdings amount to thousands of acres, from which lumber, spool and pulp stock are derived when needed. He also

deals in real estate and is the owner of considerable property, including farms in and about Bethel. He is a man of rare tact and excellent judgment, endowed with an honesty of purpose in his dealings, is public spirited and is always ready with open purse to assist liberally all cases of need or public interest. He is one of Maine's self-made business men, and holds a place second to none in the ranks of Bethel's true and loyal citizens. For five years he was a member of the Board of Selectmen, and served several terms as Road Commissioner. In 1899-1901, he represented this district in the House of Representatives. He is a director of the Bethel Water Company, and a Trustee of the Bethel Savings Bank, and Gould's Academy. Mr. Kilborn has visited the principal points of interest in Europe, and in 1901, made an extended trip across the American continent.

#### Jarvis C. Billings

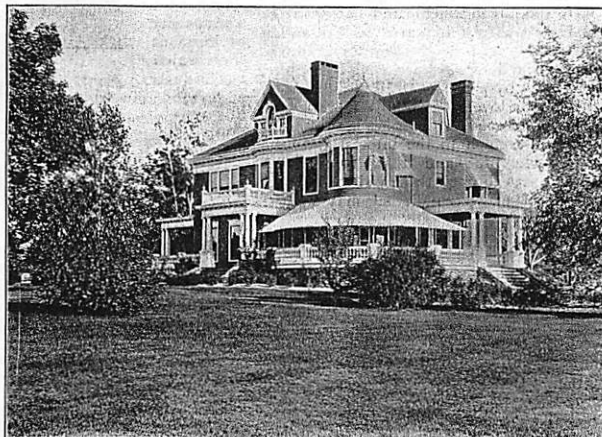
The duties incident to the postmastership of a town like that of Bethel, are arduous and exacting, nevertheless Jarvis C. Billings, the present incumbent of the office, has met all requirements in a manner satisfactory to the public, and the government officials. Mr. Billings was born in Woodstock, May 8, 1840, but since 1868, has been a resident of Bethel. For nearly a quarter of a century he conducted a successful carriage building and general blacksmithing business on Mechanic street. This he relinquished in favor of F. J. Tyler, shortly prior to his appointment as postmaster by President McKinley in 1898; he was reappointed in 1902.

The first postoffice in Bethel was established in 1814, the late Dr. Moses Mason being the postmaster. The office was located in his residence at the corner of Broad and Mason streets. Since then the office has been changed half a dozen times, always remaining within a quarter of a mile



Eben S. Kilborn

of its original location. Since 1892, the office has been located in its present neat, convenient and commodious quarters on Main street. From a revenue of \$2.83 the first year of its existence, the receipts steadily increased until 1894, when it became a presidential office. During Mr. Billings' administration of postal affairs, there has been a perceptible increase of government revenue, which is likely to be still further enlarged by the recent installation of a rural free delivery route of which Bethel is the center. There are five dispatches and four arrivals of mail each day except Sunday, and these are so methodically conducted, especially in distribution, that it affords Bethel model postal facilities. Apart from his duties as a government official, Mr. Billings has been identified with town affairs to considerable extent, having been a member of the Board of Selectmen from 1894 to 1898, and the first Collector of the village after it was incorporated in 1889. Mr. Billings is married, and has two children, namely, Robert H. Billings, who is in business in Boston, and Miss Alice Billings, teacher of instrumental music in Gould's Academy since 1896. Mr. Billings is an active member of the I. O. O. F. and F. & A. M.

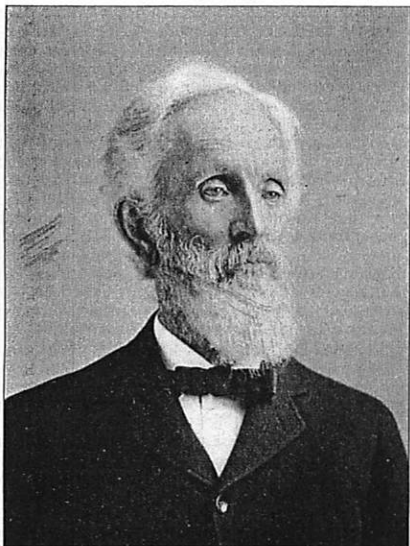


Residence of Dr. John G. Gehring



### Samuel B. Twitchell

Samuel Barker Twitchell was born in Bethel, Me., March 16, 1829. He is a farmer by occupation and is the owner of one of the finest agricultural properties in the county. This property is the old homestead of the late Col. Thaddeus Twitchell and is situated in what is commonly called Mayville, one of the prettiest sections of the town of Bethel. Mr. Twitchell is a most competent business man—one in whom the people of his town have perfect confidence. This is shown by the fact that year after year he has held important town offices and that his judgment is often asked in adjusting financial matters of public and private interests. Besides holding minor town offices, he



Samuel B. Twitchell

has been Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the past five years and during his administration the town has made an unusually good showing especially in its financial affairs. He is a man who never seeks office, but one whom the office always seeks. He represented his district in the Legislature in 1879 and 1880; he is President of the Bethel Savings Bank and the Bethel Creamery Company, and Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of Gould's Academy and the ministerial and school fund. Mr. Twitchell married, Dec. 11, 1853, Malvina A. Chapman, now deceased. By this marriage he has three daughters, Marion B., wife of Clarence W. Hobbs of Lynn, Mass., Susan B., a member of Bethel's School Board, and Florence E., a successful teacher.

### Edward King

One of Bethel's popular young citizens is Edward King who conducts a well-stocked, modern jewelry store on Main street, near the post-office. Mr. King is a native of Boston, and before going into business here, mastered the jeweler's and watchmaker's trades in Waltham, Mass., where he was employed some time. Mr. King began business in the little store near Ira C. Jordan's on lower Main street, which he very soon outgrew, and moved into his present quarters. Watches, clocks, jewelry, silver and plated ware, sterling silver and other novelties suitable for souvenir and holiday goods, are all kept in stock. He makes a specialty of wedding rings, and class and fraternity rings and pins. In addition to these, Mr. King carries on an extensive trade in bicycles and bicycle sundries, and in summer employs an experienced workman to attend to bicycle repairing. Watch and clock repairing is also carefully and promptly done. Mr. King is a practical optician, and is prepared to examine and fit all eyes affected by defective vision. His show windows have ever been a cause of wonder and admiration,

always being seasonably decorated in a manner worthy of the efforts of a professional trimmer. Mr. King's business career has been marked by that originality, push, close application to detail, and a desire to please, which have won for him many customers and friends. He married Miss Jessie Philbrook, daughter of the late Samuel D. and Emily J. Philbrook, and they have one son, Edward King, Jr., born Dec. 11, 1902.

### Calvin Bisbee.

Not all of Bethel's prominent business and professional men are native born, many having come here from surrounding localities, yet their loyalty to the town of their adoption is strikingly manifested. Among such is Calvin Bisbee, born in Sumner, Mar. 17, 1847, whose earlier life was spent in farming and the acquiring of an education through the public school system. Subsequently he pursued mercantile pursuits in a subordinate capacity, and then entered business as a trader for himself, first at Paris, and later for several years at Newry Corner. About twenty years since he established a general store on Main street near the crest of the hill, where he has since successfully catered to the public, doing an extensive business in flour, grain, mill feed, groceries and in a general way, other commodities equally as essential. In order to fill the demands of an increasing trade in grain and mill feed, Mr. Bisbee, some three years since, erected a two-story grist mill upon the site of the "Old Rink". This mill is of modern type and is equipped with three sets of rollers and improved bolting machinery, is operated by a 25 h. p. engine, and has a capacity for the milling of 250 bushels of mill feed per day. The building has a storage capacity of 5000 bushels of loose grain, about forty tons of bag stuff, and from two to three hundred barrels of flour.

In business circles Mr. Bisbee is recognized as a townsman of enterprising and progressive spirit, sound in business judgment, and ever ready to assist every worthy cause touching the interests of his fellowmen. He is a trustee of the Bethel Savings Bank and of Gould's Academy. He married Fannie Churchill of Paris, and they have two children, Robert C., who graduated from Bowdoin College last June and is now studying chemistry



Calvin Bisbee

in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Helen, who is a member of the senior class in Gould's Academy. Mr. Bisbee occupies a handsome residence amid attractive surroundings on Vernon street.

### News Publishing Company

In the spring of 1895, a small job printing office the working outfit of which was one small job press

and a few fonts of type, was opened in Bethel by A. D. Ellingwood, and in June of the same year, he published the first number of the Bethel News, a four-page local weekly. The publication was continued for a year, but with many struggles, and would have been discontinued had it not been for capital furnished by Mr. E. C. Bowler who, in September, 1897, purchased a half interest in the News. The following March he purchased the remainder of the business. With a change in management united with a persistency that knew not the meaning of failure, the plant began a steady growth, and in 1899, the paper was enlarged and is to-day one of the leading country newspapers of the State.

The publishing of the News is, however, but a small part of the business as it is at this time.



E. C. Bowler

The first ambition of the present owner was to place the News on a firm foundation, and second, to establish one of the best book plants in Maine. The first has been done and the second is fast approaching the end desired. From a small office, publishing with difficulty a four-page paper in 1897, has grown a plant second to none in Maine outside of the larger cities. During the past three years there has been issued from this press a high grade of book and half-tone work which some of the critics have pronounced to be among the best ever produced in the State. The output of this office is such as to keep three presses, including a book press recently added, running the greater part of the time. The works thus far published have been shipped to Boston to be bound, but if the growth that has been the Company's in the past continues, a book-bindery will be added to the plant in the near future.

Mr. E. C. Bowler, the son of Silas H. and Mary M. Bowler, was born in Palermo, Me., May 6, 1870. He received his education in the public schools and the Eastern State Normal School, graduating from the latter in 1890. Five years were spent at teaching, at the end of which time he removed to Bethel, in November, 1896, and began to devote his whole life and energy to the building up of a first-class publishing plant. By hard work and close application to details, the original business was doubled the first year; the succeeding years have seen like growth and to-day finds the original business increased ten fold.

Mr. Bowler has always taken an active interest in education; he was for four years Superintendent of Schools in his native town, and for six years, President of the Waldo County Teachers' Association; has also served the town of Bethel as Superintendent of Schools for two years.



Store of Edwin C. Rowe

### Edwin C. Rowe

One of the most extensive dealers in general merchandise of the many in the village, is E. C. Rowe, whose business is conducted in a large two-story building on the west side of the Common. Mr. Rowe was born in Bethel, Apr. 11, 1848, and is the son of the late Caleb Rowe. Mr. Rowe's early life was spent in attending the public schools and Gould's Academy, and farming. In 1870, he entered the general store of his brother, Ceylon Rowe, as clerk, and with him formed a co-partnership three years later. In 1878, he purchased his brother's interest, and in 1891, erected the store which he has since occupied. This building is 40x60 ft. with large plate glass windows, and is devoted entirely to Mr. Rowe's rapidly increasing business. Perhaps this should be called a department rather than a general store, for its methodical arrangement will surely warrant it. The basement is devoted to the heavier class of staple commodities with a most complete family grocery, and hardware department occupying the first floor rear. The entire front area of this story is utilized for the display and sale of dry and fancy goods, clothing, boots and shoes. The former is to be found at the left of the main entrance and comprises all classes of dress fabrics, ladies' and gents'

underwear and furnishings, ladies' shirt waists, wrappers and tailor made garments, also fur goods in their season. The gents' clothing department occupies the centre area, with a well stocked footwear department, and convenient general office to the right. Upon the second floor is the carpet, shade and wall paper, crockery, glass and kitchen furnishing departments including a line of the celebrated Glenwood stoves and ranges. Mr. Rowe also deals in farming implements of all kinds, the whole combining a mercantile establishment, creditable alike to its proprietor and the town of his nativity.

Mr. Rowe has refrained from any political preferences, his attention being closely devoted to his store and the management of numerous farms, notwithstanding which he is actively interested in all affairs pertaining to the welfare of the town, having been an instrumental factor in the establishment of the Bethel Creamery, and also identified with other affairs of equal public interest. He is and has been for a number of years, Treasurer of the Village Corporation. Mr. Rowe married Miss Ella Godwin of Bethel and owns and occupies a tastefully appointed home on Broad street. Mr. and Mrs. Rowe are affiliated with the Universalist church and are active workers in all that pertains to its interests.



Store of Hastings Brothers

### Hastings Brothers

The stranger or casual visitor to Bethel would hardly expect to find such a well stocked hardware store as is the one conducted by Hastings Brothers. This store is in the two-story block located on Main street, opposite the postoffice, and occupies the main floor and basement. In 1886, Mr. W. W. Hastings purchased of S. O. Brock the store and stock in trade but subsequently went West leaving the store in charge of a younger brother; upon his return his brother, T. F. Hastings, was admitted to partnership and since that time the firm has been known as Hastings Brothers, and through their diligence and enterprise the business has assumed large proportions. Aside from the salesroom and basement there is a large storehouse filled with heavy hardware, and a workshop where tinsmithing of all kinds is promptly and neatly done. The stock is general including shelf and builders' hardware of every description, supplies for lumbermen, millmen, builders and mechanics, guns, revolvers, ammunition, fishing tackle, sporting goods, cutlery, crockery, glassware, tinware, and a full line of stoves and ranges.

Hastings Brothers are prepared to execute any order for plumbing, steam or hot water heating, roof and gutter work and all repairs connected therewith. The firm's rapidly increasing patronage embraces all sections of Oxford county and localities outside which fact speaks much in praise of their personal popularity and business integrity. In addition to their hardware business they have extensive lumbering interests, in which business they are associated with their father, Maj. G. A. Hastings, and their brother, D. R. Hastings of Auburn. In this connection it is sufficient to say, that the Hastings family as here referred to, own and operate the largest lumbering business in Maine outside of the corporations.

William W. Hastings senior member of the firm, was born Feb. 15, 1851, and is the son of Maj. G. A. Hastings and Dolly Kimball Hastings. Prior to entering the hardware business he was employed by a New York firm as salesman in the West. He is the present town treasurer and has held the position for the past five years. He is one of the heaviest property owners in the village. By recent purchases, including the Chapman property on Main street, he became the owner of all property on the south side of said street from the public library to the Savings Bank.

Thomas F. Hastings, junior member of the firm, was born Jan. 14, 1871, and has always lived in Bethel. In 1893, he married Miss Grace G. Mason, daughter of Charles Mason of Bethel. Mr. Hastings is now superintendent of the Bethel Water Company and has full charge of the system. He has no aspirations for town offices but is a most efficient member of the Fire Company. He has a delightful cottage on Songo pond where his friends are all made welcome and where he dispenses hospitality with a free hand.

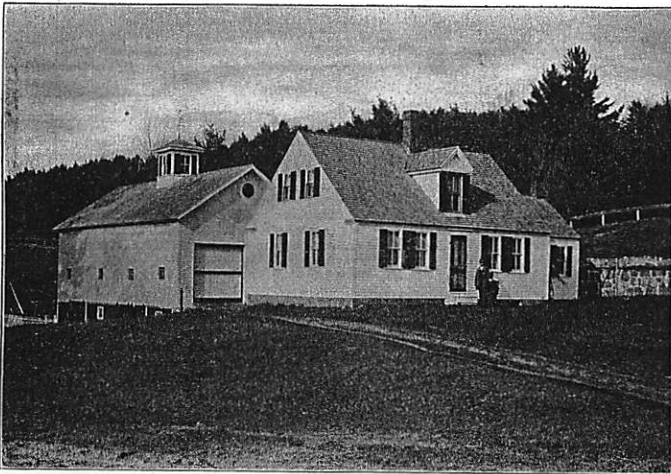
### Fritz J. Tyler

Mr. F. J. Tyler was born in Albany, Me., Dec. 26, 1873; his parents moved to Bethel when he was eight years of age and in this town he acquired his education, and established himself in business. He entered the blacksmith shop on Mechanic street, owned and then occupied by J. C. Billings, where he served an apprenticeship in the line of blacksmith and carriage work. Having become proficient in this line of work, he leased the shop of his employer and for a number of years was in business for himself. A little over a year ago, he sold his interest in the blacksmith shop and since that time has been engaged in the making of heavy farm wagons and pungs, and in general repair work, building up a good business. Mr. Tyler is agent for the D. M. Osborne farm implements, which include mowing and harvesting machines, hay rakes, tedders, etc. For the past few years he has been interested in the corn shop and has been of active service to the manager, H. F. Webb. Mr. Tyler has the respect and esteem of his fellow townsmen, shown by the fact that he is now serving his second year as tax collector for the town and corporation. One year ago he was appointed deputy sheriff and has faithfully discharged the duties that have devolved upon him in connection with this office. In 1896, he married Miss Grace Bartlett and they have one child, Esther Joy, who was born Oct. 18, 1902.





Residence of Josiah U. Purington



Residence of Chauncey C. Bryant



Residence of Hon. John M. Philbrook

### Josiah U. Purington

One of the most enterprising and progressive of Bethel's citizens is Josiah U. Purington who came here from Brunswick, Me., in 1869, and engaged as clerk with the late Robert A. Chapman who at that time conducted a general store and operated a grist mill, the former located upon the site at present occupied by the Hastings Brothers. In 1872, Messrs. Chapman, E. W. Woodbury, and J. U. Purington formed a copartnership under the title of R. A. Chapman & Co., which continued until 1875, when Mr. Chapman's interest was purchased by the two junior partners, and Mr. Woodbury's son was admitted to partnership under the title of Woodbury, Purington & Co. In 1878, the junior Mr. Woodbury retired from the firm, its title being changed to that of Woodbury & Purington. In 1881, the business was transferred to larger and more convenient quarters near the foot of Main street, and in 1884, was removed to its present location near the Grand Trunk Railway station. In 1892, Mr. Purington purchased Mr. Woodbury's interest since which period he has conducted the business alone, although the title of the former firm is retained. The premises occupied comprise a two-story front and three-story rear structure, 20 x 80, with a one-story wing 30 x 50 in the rear. The main floor front, apart from a general office, is occupied as a general store; flour, grain, mill-feed, lime, cement, fertilizers and farming implements are the chief stock however, of Mr. Purington's trade. A modernly equipped grist mill has been installed on that part of the premises next the railway. This, with its kindred grain chutes, leading to the bins above, and the unique elevator by which cars alongside the building can be quickly loaded or unloaded, are operated by a 15 h. p. engine. The milling capacity is 250 bushels per day, and there is storage capacity for 10,000 bushels of loose grain, forty tons of bag material and two carloads each of flour and cement. The business has expanded to its present proportions through the untiring energy and attention of Mr. Purington, and though this requires a close application to business affairs, he is ever ready to aid any project for the betterment of his fellow-beings. From 1891 to 1898, he was town treasurer, and is at present a member of the Cemetery Board, director of the Bethel Water Company, and a trustee of the Bethel Savings Bank, and Gould's Academy. Mr. Purington married Francetta, daughter of E. W. Woodbury and they have three children, namely: Alice E., who married John V. Holt of Andover, Mass., Belle, who lives at home since graduating from Gould's Academy, and Harry who is a member of the senior class of that institution.

### Chauncey C. Bryant

Chauncey C. Bryant, whose residence, slaughter house, and store-house are located on the Middle Interval road about a mile and a half from town, is our veteran meat dealer. Mr. Bryant was born in Woodstock, Aug. 20, 1852, removing to Bethel when twenty-one years old. He received his education in the public schools, and in 1871, entered the service of the Grand Trunk Railway, remaining with that corporation six months. He then, in conjunction with the late William Mason, established a meat route and later conducted the business for himself, in addition to furnishing patrons with ice, being the first to install the ice business in the town. He also established a market and grocery store on lower Main street, which he sold to his son two years ago. At the time he began business for himself, in 1876, he purchased the farm property which he now occupies. Within a year he has entirely remodeled the outbuildings with a view to entering the wholesale trade in beef, pork, mutton, poultry, and game, also to doing custom slaughtering. His slaughter house is equipped with the latest improved trolley system, enabling him to dress slaughtered stock to advantage. In connection therewith are meat cutters and strippers, by which Mr. Bryant is prepared to manufacture sausage. It is a model establishment of its kind and one of the best in the county. Mr. Bryant also buys and sells real estate and is the owner of valuable property of that character, which he offers for sale on reasonable terms. He married Ella A. Smith of Bethel and they have one son, William C. Bryant. Mr. Bryant has for many years been identified with the I. O. O. F. of Maine.

### Charles L. Davis

The trucking of Bethel is a somewhat important business feature as the stores, centrally located, are just far enough from the Railway station to require the services of a truckman. This business is generally entrusted to C. L. Davis. Mr. Davis is a native of Greenwood, having been born in that town, Oct. 28, 1861, but has been a resident of Bethel and identified with its interests for the past twenty-five years. He is the son of the late Dr. D. W. Davis, a well-known and popular physician, who established himself in Bethel a number of years since, and who at the time of his decease, May 16, 1881, had acquired an extensive practice. For the past nineteen years Mr. Davis has not only conducted a freight transfer business, but as a truckman is ready at all times to move furniture or pianos with care and at reasonable rates; and in freight shipments by rail, to procure bills of lading, as well as to pay all charges when so authorized by patrons. Mr. Davis also deals in hard and soft coal, and is prepared to deliver such quantities as may be desired to patrons within the limits of the village proper. His office and residence are located on High street near the brick schoolhouse.



**Summer Home of Mrs. E. T. Russell**

One of the most attractive rural places in Bethel, a mile below the depot, is that owned by Mrs. E. T. Russell. During the summer months this cottage is occupied by Mrs. Russell, her daughter Shirley, her father, Mr. George H. Shirley, and her two sisters; in winter all reside in Brooklyn, N. Y. The house and barn are abundantly supplied with fresh spring water from the mountain side. Cultivated land extends to the Androscoggin river, where boating is excellent. Here is the ledge, in the rear of the house, from which may be obtained one of the finest views in town, and which has been made famous by the poetess, Miss Lucy Larcom, who spent nine successive summers at this place, and here sang many of her sweetest songs. The pine grove with summer house and rustic seats for picnics, and the many restful, secluded spots in the woods, where one can commune with Nature and the God of Nature, study the great variety of birds which here congregate or watch the unfolding of flowers and ferns, make this an ideal country home.

Mr. George H. Shirley who spends his summers here is well-known for the great interest he has taken in the temperance cause. His early life was spent in a printing office. From 1843 to 1856, he was editor of the Washingtonian, being associated with his father, Mr. Arthur Shirley, who previous to that had printed the Daily Courier, the first daily printed in Portland. In September, 1861, the subject of this sketch was appointed, under Lincoln, Deputy Surveyor of New York and remained in the Custom House service for twenty-five years. Mr. Shirley has retired from active business and resides with his daughters. Each summer season the entire family is gladly welcomed to Bethel, where by their pleasant ways and kindly interest they have made many friends.

### R. E. L. Farwell

Of the many establishments in Bethel where groceries may be obtained, the only store which does an exclusive grocery business is that of R. E. L. Farwell on Church street near Main street. Mr. Farwell is a native of Bethel, and was born June 14, 1840. He was educated in its public schools and Gould's Academy, and until within the past fourteen years was engaged in farming. Since 1889, Mr. Farwell has been identified with his present calling, having at first located upon the same site on Church street, which he at present occupies, moving to Main street opposite the postoffice five years later. He remained there until the present fall, when he moved into his former quarters on Church street, which in the meantime had been thoroughly remodeled and enlarged, making it a very neat and commodious store, and but a few steps from his former location on Main street. Mr. Farwell deals extensively in fancy and staple groceries, canned goods, teas, coffees, and spices, country produce, including the best of butter and cheese, also fruits, berries, and oysters in their seasons, together with choice brands of tobacco, cigars, and confectionery. Mr. Farwell is a firm adherent of dealing in honest goods at honest prices, and with a new store and fresh stock will be as pleased to see his old customers as to acquire new ones.

### Wm. Rogers Chapman

Wm. R. Chapman, Director-in-Chief of the Maine Music Festival, prides himself on his Maine ancestry. His grandfather was one of the early settlers of Bethel, and William R. spent all of his boyhood days here and keeps the old homestead as a home to which he may come for rest when worn with a life of activity in the musical circles of New York, and that connected with the Festivals which have been such an inspiration and uplift to the music lovers of Maine for the past seven years. Mr. Chapman was educated in New York city. In 1875, he went to Europe to take a musical course and on his return accepted a position as organist in one of the largest churches in New York. He also received at the same time, an appointment as teacher of vocal music in the public schools where for ten years he was a power in this line of work. He was the choral conductor at the Patti Festival in 1891, at Madison Square Garden. While he is a conductor of various Clubs in New York, he is best known throughout our own State as the originator of the Maine Music Festival; it is hardly necessary to give a sketch of this Festival in connection with Mr. Chapman, as his name is almost a household word in musical families, but it is fitting to say that Bethel claims as a musical family, one who has earned the recognition, the confidence, the support and the applause of music lovers, and occupies to-day an unrivalled and well merited place in the thoughts of all; his work extends from year to year and has spread from Maine through New Hampshire, Vermont, northern New York and Canada. He is also well-known as

a composer, his songs being effective and pleasing and his church anthems are ranked very high. Mr. Chapman married Miss Emma L. Faulkner of Chicago, and her executive ability ceaseless activity and well directed effort in all that relates to his work is well-known and appreciated. They have one daughter, Nellie R., and reside in the winter, at the Waldorf Astoria in New York city.

### Will O. Straw

One of the most delightful places in Bethel, where slightly location and charming residences are the rule rather than the exception, is the large mansion on Broad street, for many years the home of that noted attorney and Associated Justice of the Supreme Bench, Enoch Foster. Here, facing the Common, and looking across it to the range of mountains beyond the village limits, has located Will O. Straw, who has spent the past twenty years on a ranch in Montana. Mr. Straw was born in Guilford, Me., July 10, 1843. His parents were D. R. Straw, an attorney, and C. A. Straw. He attended the common schools of Guilford, Andover Academy, Andover, Mass., and Gould's Academy, Bethel, graduating under Dr. True. He married in 1862, Miss Agnes H. Hastings, a sister of Maj. G. A., and D. S. Hastings who also occupy beautiful residences on this street. Mr. and Mrs. Straw lived in Hanover ten years where he was engaged in farming, and then came to Bethel where he continued that business for nearly ten years. In 1883, he went to Montana and established a sheep ranch, doing an extensive business. Although locating in Bethel as a retired business man, he still retains the Montana property and will be obliged to visit it occasionally to give general superintendence to the successful management thereof.

### Bethel Creamery

The Bethel Creamery is located on Church street near Railroad street. It was established about a dozen years ago and operated by the Bethel Dairying Company which was reorganized last May with the following officers: Samuel B. Twitchell, president; E. L. Bradford of Auburn, treasurer; Chester Wheeler, manager. This institution is of much real value to the farmers living within a radius of fifteen miles, as it pays cash for what cream they can produce



**Residence of Will O. Straw**

and deliver at the factory, and it also gives the village people an opportunity to obtain at reasonable prices, the purest and best of cream and butter. The Creamery is equipped with a water-power churn, with the capacity of producing two hundred pounds of butter at each churning, with an average of three churnings per day. A portion of the product is molded into pound cakes, neatly stamped and wrapped in paraffine paper. That not intended for home consumption is packed in boxes and crates for shipment. Connected with the Creamery is a model refrigerator and an ice house, with a sufficient capacity for the use of the Creamery, and the supply of town patrons, during the summer season. This Company is also agent for and dealer in neat stock and poultry medicinal preparations the product of Our Husbands Manufacturing Co. of Lyndon, Vt. These are very highly recommended by poultry keepers, dairy men and stock raisers all over the country. It also takes orders for the Common Sense Calf Feeder put out by the same company. Any practical person will on inspection, see the value of this device, which Mr. Wheeler will be pleased to show. Mr. Wheeler, manager of the Creamery is an experienced dairyman, and holds a certificate for competency in testing cream by the Babcock system, the result of practical knowledge acquired at the University of Maine.

### G. R. Wiley

One of the most necessary places of business in the village is the well stocked drug store of Goodwin R. Wiley, adjoining the postoffice. Mr. Wiley was born in Bethel, Jan. 13, 1846, and is the son of Dr. R. G. Wiley who is one of the oldest practicing physicians in the State. He was educated in the public schools, Gould's Academy, Edward Little Institute of Lewiston, and Eastman Commercial College of Poughkeepsie, N. Y. He obtained a thoroughly comprehensive knowledge of pharmaceuticals by a partial course at the Maine Medical College, and entered the business which he has since successfully conducted, in 1869. As a pharmacy this is the equal of similar establishments of the larger centers, being stocked with a well selected assortment of pure drugs, chemicals and druggist's supplies; also the leading patent remedies, toilet and fancy articles, hot and cold drinks, ice cream in season, confectionery, the popular brands of cigars, sporting goods, fishing tackle, books, stationery, school supplies, the leading daily, weekly and monthly publication, with the Boston and Portland Sunday papers. He also carries a full line of mixed paints, oils, and varnishes, and has one of the largest assortments of wall paper and shades to be found in town. He also has the agency for the Eastman Kodak Company's goods comprising photographic supplies of all kinds. Mr. Wiley makes a specialty of his prescription department, both he and his assistant being registered pharmacists of many years' experience. Mr. Wiley has always taken an active interest in public affairs and has filled many positions of honor and trust. He has held the office of Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Gould's Academy since 1884. He was one of the original stockholders of the Bethel Dairying Company, and its clerk until it became the Bethel Creamery Company; served as town clerk from 1874 to 1876, and has officiated in the same capacity in connection with the village corporation since its incorporation in 1889. From the latter year until July, 1893, he was chief engineer of the Fire Department, and as chair



**Prof. Wm. Rogers Chapman**



man of a committee appointed for the purpose was instrumental in securing the present equipment of the department. In 1893, he was appointed postmaster, the office being at the time graded in the fourth class. He constructed and equipped the present office, and it was during his administration that the office was placed in the presidential class. Mr. Wiley retained the position until 1898. He is a member of the Maine Pharmaceutical Association, and is first Vice President of that body. He is a member of Bethel Lodge No. 97, F. & A. M., of which he has been master two separate terms; is also a member, and has been twice High Priest of Oxford Chapter R. A. M., and a Sir Knight of Lewiston Commandery. For two consecutive terms he served as District Deputy, and is a permanent member of the Grand Lodge of Maine, having served as Grand Junior Warden. Sept. 7, 1891, he was appointed by and under the seal of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria Colony Australia, as a representative of that body to the Grand Lodge of Maine.



Store of Gilman P. Bean

### Gilman P. Bean

The successful business man is he who by courtesy, enterprise and commendable business methods, places himself in so close a touch with the public as to command trade and respect. Gilman P. Bean whose store is located on the corner of Church and Main streets, at Honest Corner so-called, was born in Bethel, Dec. 23, 1825, his father a prosperous farmer, and grandfather, being among the pioneer settlers of the town. Mr. Bean obtained his education in the public schools and Gould's Academy remaining on his father's farm until of age, when he spent several years in Massachusetts. Returning to Bethel he resumed farming and in 1875, succeeded to the business of the late Moses T. Cross. The line of goods carried in stock comprises dry and fancy goods, dress trimmings, ladies' ready-made clothing, footwear, a full line of ladies' and gents' underwear and furnishings, a general assortment of workmen's garments, and a good line of staple and fancy groceries. The corner store as it is termed, has acquired popularity from the fact that Mr. Bean has adhered to the established principle of honest goods at honest prices, and square dealing with all patrons. This fact combined with a general interest in the welfare of the town has gained him the respect of his fellow townsmen, and as an evidence thereof, he has been at various times a member of the Board of Selectmen for nine years, more than half of which time he served as chairman; he served three terms as such during the Civil war at which period it required the exercise of considerable sound judgment in meeting such questions as confronted the municipal executive of every locality in the north, and which position he filled to the satisfaction of all. From 1890 to 1893, Mr. Bean was postmaster of Bethel, and at present is a trustee of the Bethel Savings Bank and Gould's Academy.



Stage Coach of C. H. Davis

### E. E. Cross

The latest business venture in our village is the very complete and up-to-date drug establishment of E. E. Cross, who came here from Portland about six weeks ago and began this business in the building so long occupied by R. E. L. Farwell as a grocery store. In addition to his very complete drug and prescription department, he carries a full line of such goods as are usually found in a modern drug store, such as perfumes and soaps, brushes and numerous other toilet articles, patent medicines of all kinds, at city prices, tobacco, cigars, fine stationery, pens, etc., hot and cold drinks, ice cream in season, and a line of delicious candies. Mr. Cross was born in North Waterford, May 4, 1861. His father, Jesse Cross, was the son of Franklin and Lucy N. (Coffin) Cross of Bethel; his mother, Loretta A. Graham, was the daughter of George and Irene Graham of Kumbord. He attended the Bethel schools until eleven years of age, and then removed to Lewiston where his education was completed.

At the age of sixteen he entered the Journal office and remained four years, completely mastering the printer's trade. He then engaged in the hardware business of J. H. Day of Lewiston where he remained four years. On Oct. 2, 1886, he was married to Mrs. Clara E. Bray of Lewiston, daughter of Wm. Evans, and removed to Portland where he worked as book-keeper two years. He formed a co-partnership with John H. Hamel in the drug business, and in 1888, bought Mr. Hamel's interest and continued the business alone until last summer, when he sold out and com-

ing to Bethel opened his present business.

### E. E. Whitney

Located on Main street near the Grand Trunk station, are the marble and granite works of E. E. Whitney. The sound of the chisel and hammer may always be heard by the passer-by as the work of fashioning the beautiful memorials to the dead goes on from day to day. Mr. Whitney was born and reared in Dixfield, but after learning his trade as granite and marble cutter, entered business in Lancaster, N. H. He came to Bethel some fourteen years ago, and in all the cemeteries in and around Bethel are found, marking the resting-places of those who have passed to the great beyond, memorials from his establishment. Many of these are of elegant design and workmanship, as the massive sarcophagus in the Songo cemetery and another of unique design in memory of the late Jesse Russell in the Hanover cemetery. Within a radius of twenty miles, Mr. Whitney's work is known, and an order for a tablet or marker receives the same careful attention as the larger orders. The subject of this sketch is an advocate of all that is for public interest, but has never sought public office. He is an active member of the Fire Department, serving as Chief for the past five years, and the same thoroughness has been manifested in this as in his own work. Among Bethel's citizens none have won a more enviable reputation for manliness and business principles than has Mr. E. E. Whitney.

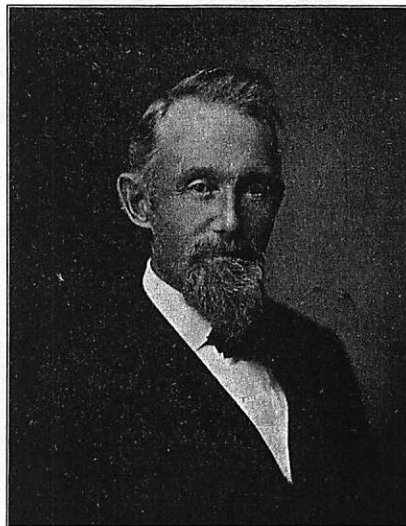
### Charles H. Davis

Connecting with the Grand Trunk Railway at Bethel, and penetrating the upper lake region of northern Maine, is the United States mail and express stage line of Charles H. Davis, who has controlled this most popular line to the summer resorts and fishing grounds of the famous Rangeley region for the past nine years. Mr. Davis was born in Oxford, Jan. 9, 1860, but removed to Greenwood fifteen years later. He lived there five years, and from there came to Bethel, and in 1884, went to Grafton, and engaged in lumbering. In 1893, he bid in the contract for transporting the mail from Bethel to Umbagog, twenty-eight miles distance, and covering intermediate points, including North Bethel, Newry, North Newry, Grafton and Upton terminal of the line being the Lakeside Hotel. Mr. Davis' regular equipment comprises two skeleton-top easy riding coaches, which can be readily transformed into closed coaches in stormy weather, each accommodating eleven passengers with ample room for the transportation of baggage, express, and mail matter; he also has additional transportation facilities which can be readily furnished upon notice in advance for any number of passengers. These stages connect daily, with the exception of Sunday, with the morning train from Portland for points in the Lake region, and returning connect with the afternoon train east. In connection with the passenger and express business,

he attends to the transportation of all freight consigned to and from any of these points upon reasonable terms.

### Daniel S. Hastings

That there is no place like home, is instanced in the fact that though many of Bethel's most popular young men in bygone days, have gone to and been successful in other climes, yet a yearning for the dear old town of their nativity, nestled among the picturesquely wooded hills of north-western Maine, has prompted a return thereto either as transient visitors or to settle permanently. One of the latter is Daniel Straw Hastings, born May 5, 1840, within the very residence on Broad street, which he and his family at present occupy, the homestead of his father, the late John Hastings.



Daniel S. Hastings

The subject of this sketch was educated in the public school and Gould's Academy, and later, acquired a practical knowledge of civil engineering, which profession he followed for several years, his first important service in this respect being in connection with the engineering staff in the construction of the Portland & Ogdensburg R. R., now the Mountain Division of the Maine Central R. R., in 1871. The laying out of this line high up the slope of the famous White Hills of New Hampshire and crossing deep and nerve-thrilling chasms like those spanned by the Frankenstein trestle and Willey Brook bridges, required engineering skill of a high order, and reflected great credit upon those concerned. Mr. Hastings remained with the Portland & Ogdensburg engineering staff for about five years, and then became identified with the Boston & Maine engineering staff in the projecting of its extension from South Berwick to Portland. In 1881, he went west to accept a position with the engineering corps of the Northern Pacific R. R., and for a time had charge of a locating party for two hundred and fifty miles of this corporation in Montana, as also in locating the line through Wisconsin, and subsequently had charge of the construction of a portion of the latter. It was while thus engaged in Montana, that Mr. Hastings discerned the possibilities of that country, which led to his investing in a large tract of land, in 1884, and turning it into a sheep ranch. In this venture he was successful, often having from five to six thousand head to care for, requiring the service of from twenty to forty hands. Having advantageously leased this property, some three years since Mr. Hastings returned to Bethel, with a view to settling upon the old homestead and enjoying the fruits of his labor. This he has done, although he makes an occasional visit to Montana in the interest of his western possessions.

### Mrs. Harriette F. Farwell

Mrs. Harriette F. Farwell, (nee Harriette F. Kilborn) took up her residence in Bethel in 1896, and though she has never had any desire to pose before the public as an author and would be very unwilling to do so now, it may be interesting to the readers of this number of the News to learn that she has been a frequent contributor to Boston and Maine papers, (with an occasional article for some western paper) since her school days. For the past twelve years she has spent much time and labor on a genealogical work now being printed with the title of Shaw Records. This is very ably written and will be very interesting, as many of the pages are brightened by incidents, and the whole work is enlivened by many cuts, anecdotes, old documents, etc., some being produced in the original forms. The style is wholly her own and cannot fail to please. It is being printed at the News office and will appear during the present month.

Since her sojourn with us, being much of the time an invalid, Mrs. Farwell has made few intimate acquaintances in this village; but those few recognize in her a mind quick to observe and appreciate true beauty, whether manifested in art, music, flowers, or the great diversity of natural scenery to be found among the mountains of the Androscoggin valley, and often speaks of the latter as "faithful and majestic sentinels, guarding the exits and entrances throughout the extent of this charming and romantic region."

**Elmer H. Young.**

One of the oldest and best known business houses in Bethel is the harness business of Elmer H. Young, established more than half a century ago, on Main St. near Church St. Its present proprietor, Elmer H. Young, was born in Bethel, April, 13, 1859, and acquired his educational training in

**Elmer H. Young**

the public schools and Gould's Academy. Subsequently he became associated with his father, the late Hiram Young, whose reputation for fine workmanship in the manufacture and repair of harness brought him patronage from all over the County and even beyond. The inheritance by the son, of the principles of business integrity, established by the father, have conducted to the continued success of the business, to which the former succeeded upon the death of the latter, several years since. Mr. Young not only manufactures and deals in harness, single and double of all kinds, also horse clothing, stable goods and carriage furnishings, but he makes a specialty of fur goods in variety, including robes and a large line of gentlemen's garments, and carries a full line of trunks, bags, and suit cases. He also pays special attention to the repairing of harness. Mr. Young is a zealous advocate of all measures pertaining to the welfare of the town, a firm believer in its future prosperity, and for the past three years has been a member of the Board of Assessors of the village corporation. He is a Past Master of Bethel Lodge No. 97, F. & A. M. Mr. Young married Miss Annie Lucas and occupies a handsome residence on Main St., in addition to which he has a delightful summer home on the shore of Songo Lake, an attractive sheet of water a short distance from town, and which is destined to become a popular resort.

**William C. Bryant**

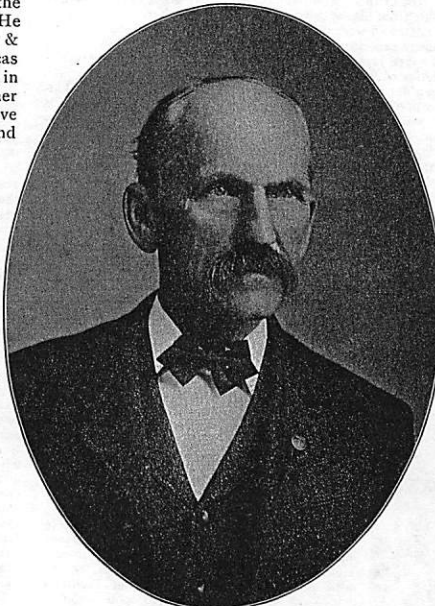
Wm. C. Bryant, one of Bethel's younger business men, is located at the junction of Main, Mechanic, and High Sts., where he does quite an extensive meat and grocery business. During the summer and early fall months his trade in meat is large, not only supplying the wants of the village people to a large extent but shipping large quantities to a number of the summer hotels in the Lake region. Mr. Bryant was born in Bethel, Nov. 5, 1877, is the son of Chauncey C. and Ella A. Bryant, and was educated in the public schools, Gould's Academy, and Shaw's Business College. After completing his education, he was engaged for a time as clerk in the general store of J. W. Bennett at Gilead, which position he resigned to enter the employ of his father who was in trade where the son now is. Two years ago the business was purchased by its present owner, and the custom won by the business integrity and honest dealings of the father has been retained by that of the son. Mr. Bryant was married about four years ago to Miss Daisy Foster, and they have one son.

**George T. Lawrence**

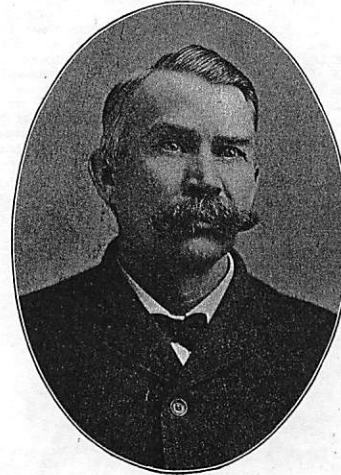
For twenty-six years the subject of this sketch has been a familiar figure on Main St., where for that length of time he has been dealing in watches, clocks, jewelry, and silverware, and conducting repairing very satisfactorily. Mr. Lawrence is one of our older business men, a man of strictest integrity and undisputed honesty. He was born in Sumner, May 15, 1843, son of Rufus and Charlotte Lawrence; educated in the public schools; married, Oct. 8, 1865, Joanna P. Field, and has three children, namely: Lottie A., married John P. Burnell and has six children; resides at Cumberland Mills; Allie L., married, and employed in Waltham Watch Factory; Walter, married, and is at present employed in a hotel at Pasadena, Cal. Mr. Lawrence lived in Sumner until he was 24 years of age, when he entered the employ of S. Richards, jeweler, South Paris, where he remained five years. He then worked four years for Horace Cole of Norway, after which he came to Bethel where he has since resided.

**Albert W. Grover**

Albert Wellington Grover, undertaker, was born in Bethel, Mar. 21, 1841. He was a son of the late George W. Grover who, as a pioneer settler, located in that part of the town known as West Bethel Flat on Pleasant river, at a time when that section was but a primeval forest in which he made a clearing, opened up a highway, and subsequently became a prosperous farmer. The subject of this sketch acquired a common school education, was a student in Gould's Academy, and was engaged in farming and school teaching until 1893. During the Civil war he enlisted as a private in Co. B, 23rd Maine Regiment of Infantry. In 1893, he was appointed a trial justice, which office he retained for seven years; since 1897, he has acted as pension attorney for this locality. He was also a member of the Board of Selectmen seven years, during four of which he was chairman; is a member of the Board of Trustees of Gould's Academy. Some four years since, having acquired a knowledge of embalming, he entered business as a funeral director in all that name implies, including the furnishing of all the supplies necessary therefor, and assuming charge of all ceremonies connected with burial rites. He has an office on Main St. opposite Odd Fellows Hall, where he also transacts his pension business. He married Olive Willis, and they have three children, namely: Grace who married Herman Skillings; Edith, who married Prin. E. H. Pratt; Archer, who is an instructor in the University of Maine.

**Albert W. Grover****Charles A. Lucas**

Bethel people are always loyal to Bethel productions, whether they be of music, art, or the necessities of life, and this is one of the reasons for the success of the home bakery established by C. A. Lucas in conjunction with his very complete meat and grocery trade at the corner of Main and Church

**Charles A. Lucas**

streets. Mr. Lucas was born in Bethel, Oct. 14, 1854, son of John and Arvilla (Cook) Lucas; received his education in the town schools and Gould's Academy; was employed as brakeman on the G. T. R. six years. About twenty years ago he opened a meat and grocery store in Bethel, and continued in business three years. He was then engaged in the clothing business at South Paris for one year, after which he went to Wolfboro, N. H., and entered into the livery business. Returning to Bethel, he again opened a meat and grocery store which he ran for about three years, and then leased the Elms, very successfully managing that hotel for one year. Mr. Lucas then moved to South Paris and worked in the Norway shoe shop until his health failed. About four years ago he opened his present place of business and has since kept a model fancy grocery and fruit store, also dealing in meats, oysters, poultry and game, during the greater part of the time. He makes a specialty of fine confectionery and choice brands of cigars. Some two years ago he added a first-class home bakery to his already extensive business, and the products of this branch of his trade have won their way into homes of all classes, by their superior excellence.

**E. C. Vandekerckhoven**

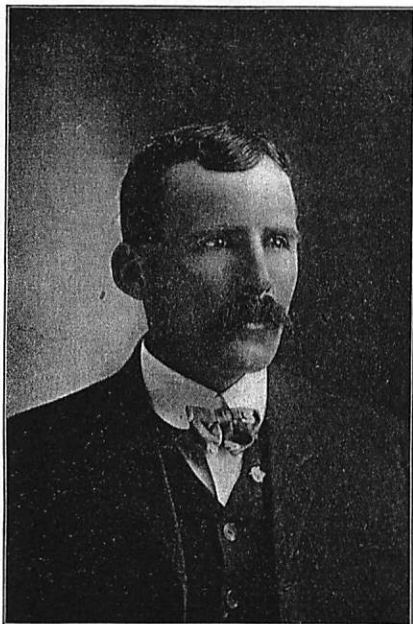
Nearly every hamlet and village has in these days of rapid progress its amateur photographers, but not every village has a photographer who is strictly up-to-date in as many ways as the man who operates the cameras in the studio on Main street. Marvelous, indeed, is the power of the camera and wonderful are the improvements that have been made in this line of work since the first daguerreotype was made in the early part of the nineteenth century, but Bethel's photographer Mr. E. C. Vandekerckhoven, has kept abreast of the times and is thoroughly equipped to do the work of the village. He was born in Boston, Mass., and educated in the schools of that city, graduating from its High and Latin schools. He has spent some time traveling in Europe and having a natural taste for photographic work, made careful studies in that line while abroad. He has been engaged in this work as a means of livelihood for two and one-half years, and with his modern equipment has done, during that time, some very clever and satisfactory work. His views of Bethel and vicinity are very pleasing and he has many calls for this work from the summer visitors who mingle among our people from season to season. Besides doing a goodly



amount of portrait work. Mr. Vandekerckhoven also does crayon and pastel work. He married in Nov. 1901, Miss Addie Brightman, who was a teacher of elocution in Gould's Academy, and they have a son one year old.

### Fred L. Edwards

One of the busiest of Bethel's substantial business men is Fred L. Edwards who is engaged in farming and lumbering, each done on an extensive scale. His whole attention is given to the intricate details incident to the successful maintenance of his business undertakings which require an executive ability of no small magnitude. Mr. Edwards was born in Bethel, Oct. 14, 1865, the son of Col. Clark S. and Maria A. Edwards, daughter of Ayres Mason. Col. Edwards was recognized by his fellows as a man of sterling character, business integrity, and firm friendships, doing acts of generosity where help was most needed and least often received. He combined with these characteristics, sound executive judgment, and was an intrepid leader as a soldier. The subject of this sketch was educated in the public schools and Gould's Academy, supplemented by a business training in Gray's Commercial College, Portland. Subsequently he became associated with his father in the management of an extensive farm property and lumbering interests, and for several years prior to the decease of his father, last May, had entire charge, residing upon the old homestead on Vernon street. Mr. Edwards not only controls the home property, comprising several hundred acres of farm and timber lands, but is the owner of large and valuable farm properties and timber lands in Albany and Greenwood. Mr. Edwards gives considerable attention to the breeding of neat stock of the Holstein breed, his herd numbering from fifty



Fred L. Edwards

to seventy-five head, these being disposed of to purchasers and shippers as occasion demands.

His first lumber operations in association with his father, were confined largely to the getting out of ties for the Grand Trunk Railway, later developing into the cutting of pulp wood, spool stock, and cord wood this constituting the basis of his present operations. He is now contemplating the manufacture of lumber and spool stock through the erection of a mill plant upon his premises in Bethel, another at Albany, and a third at Roxbury. Mr. Edwards is constantly adding to his timber possession and in addition thereto maintains a large force in the care of his farm properties which are being continually improved. He was married June 28, 1890, to Susie G. Frost of Bethel. Mr.

Edwards inherited from his father in a marked degree, the characteristics which won for him the respect and esteem of all classes, and although too busy to take an active part in public affairs, is always ready to assist in any movement for the good of his native village or its people.

### Miss E. E. Burnham

One of the most commodious and finely appointed business establishments both with respect to stock and fixtures, is the millinery and fancy goods store of Miss E. E. Burnham occupying the northern end of the Cole Block on Main street. Miss Burnham is the daughter of the late Pinckney Burnham, one of Bethel's most prominent business men and public officials, and has been identified with the millinery trade for the past twenty years, being first located in the Chapman building, corner of Broad and Main streets, and since the erection of the bank building in 1891, in her present quarters. During all these years Miss Burnham has received an extensive patronage from the people of Bethel and the towns around. Her stock is always up-to-date and at her openings in the spring and fall some fifty trimmed hats and bonnets, with as many untrimmed shapes, are shown. These trimmed hats are the work of experienced trimmers who have spent time at the Boston openings and who bring to Bethel people the latest fashions.

Miss Burnham has a full line of ladies' and children's underwear, the latest styles in neckwear, materials for fancy needlework, the largest variety of yarns found in the village, jewelry and novelties. She is also agent for a well-known florist and furnishes at short notice, cut flowers and fancy designs. As a business woman Miss Burnham is a success and has won many friends, and as a citizen she is always ready to contribute liberally to anything pertaining to the welfare of the town or to any worthy object. She is in close touch with the Congregational church and an energetic member of the W. R. C.

### Miss L. C. Hall

Among the people in Bethel who have a business distinctively their own, Miss Laura C. Hall is first. Herself modest and unassuming, she began her business in the same quiet way, but so gradual has been her increasing patronage and her stock has filled the wants of so many people that her store has really become a necessity. When she opened her store in 1893, a line of art goods and decorated china constituted her stock, at this time not only these goods are carried but her stationery line is second to none in town; whatever you may find in the stationery department of any store you may seek and find in her choice line of goods. She also includes in her stock, pictures, frames, art calendars, books, fancy baskets, a full line of toys and holiday goods. Possessed of much natural musical ability, she studied under private instructors and at the Conservatory of Music thus fitting herself to instruct in this art, which she did with much success in this and adjoining towns, but upon the opening of the store this line of work was laid aside. She also studied china decorating with New York and Boston artists and in her store may be found many pieces of china which have, indeed been traced by the hand of an artist. Her Bethel souvenir china finds ready purchasers among the summer people. For many years she has been organist at the Congregational church, and her voluntaries are often musical treats to the audience. Miss Hall is the daughter of Mr. Henry B. Hall, who came to Bethel from Portland in 1861. He opened a drug store in the "Brick" block and for many years was the only druggist in town. After his death in 1872, this business was carried on by his daughter, Miss Sarah L. Hall; she proved to be a success in the work and conducted the business to the satisfaction of her patrons until ill health caused her to close out her stock.

### Miss L. M. Stearns

About two years ago, Mrs. Bradbury and Miss Stearns of Paris came to Bethel and opened a modest little millinery and ladies' furnishing store on Main street, near High. Mrs. Bradbury had been engaged in the millinery business for many

years, and Miss Stearns was an expert trimmer, having been employed as such for several years in Massachusetts. The becoming style, quality of the goods, and reasonable prices, combined with the pleasing manners of these ladies, soon won for them a gratifying patronage which has continued to steadily increase until the business has grown to be one of the leading ones in the village. Miss Stearns after a time, purchased Mrs. Bradbury's interest and with able assistance is prepared to meet the requirements of the feminine public desirous of obtaining the newest and most becoming millinery at the least expense. Miss Stearns has the unusual and valuable faculty of not only being able to arrange silks, velvets, laces, ribbons, flowers and feathers in delightfully bewildering hats and bonnets, but of displaying her large stock of goods in a manner to please the most fastidious customers. She spends a few weeks each season in Boston, studying and copying the latest modes and the result of her observation is shown by the scores of hats put on exhibition at her semi-annual openings which have become events to be looked forward to and waited for. During the past season she has made a specialty of ready-to-wear hats, and to that end held an opening solely for them. In addition to her millinery stock she deals in ladies' and children's furnishings, fancy goods, notions, holiday goods, wrappers, aprons, table linen, yarns, and underwear.

### N. F. Brown

The hardware store of N. F. Brown is located on Main street, about half way from the postoffice to the Grand Trunk station. His stock comprises about everything in the hardware line, including



N. F. Brown

builders', lumbermen's and mechanics' supplies, also bar iron, piping, and the heavier grades of hardware. He also deals in tin and granite ware, stoves, ranges, furnaces, and kitchen furnishings, and is prepared to fill orders for plumbing, furnace work, and tinsmithing, also repairing. Mr. Brown is a native of Bethel, where he was for several years engaged in farming. He was at one time employed as a carriage painter, and subsequently dealt in flour and grain for about one year. Some eleven years ago he purchased his present business, and has since taken an active part in Bethel's affairs. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Bethel Savings Bank and Gould's Academy, has been a member of the School Board for a number of years, and for four years most acceptably filled the position of School Supervisor. Mr. Brown is a man of marked business integrity and has long since won an enviable reputation for fairness and honesty in his dealing with his fellowmen.

## A Few Absent But Interested Ones

**Wesley Kimball Woodbury** is the youngest child of Enoch W. Woodbury and Sallie K. Woodbury. He was born in Sweden, Me., Feb. 21, 1855, and lived there until he was twelve years old when he moved to Cape Elizabeth with his parents. The family moved to Bethel in 1870, and the subject of this sketch attended the district schools and was graduated at Gould's



Academy in 1874. He taught in the district schools of the town and subsequently assisted his friend and teacher, S. A. Thurlow, in the Freeport High School. In 1875 he entered in partnership with his father and brother-in-law, J. U. Purington, in the general store business; in 1878 went to Pottsville, Penn., where he entered upon the study of the law with the prominent law firm of Hughes & Farquhar, and was admitted to the Schuylkill County Bar in 1880, where he has been in active practice of the law ever since. He numbers among his clients, many of the best people of the county, represents large corporate interests and is the executor and adviser of several large estates. He occupies a suite of three rooms in the largest office building of the town and is assisted in his work by two lady stenographers and three law students. Is a director in the Schuylkill Trust Company; was for fifteen years a director of the public schools; is an elder in the First Presbyterian church and the superintendent of its Sunday School; has for nearly twenty years been connected with the board of directors of the Benevolent Association's Home for Children, an institution for the care of orphan children in the county in which he resides. He is a republican in politics, but loves his country above his party, and, therefore, does not hesitate to criticize and try to correct the wrongs in the party whose principles he espouses. His name has been mentioned several times in connection with the judgeship of the Court of Common Pleas in the county where he resides, and also in connection with the Superior and Supreme Courts of the State. He was married in 1882, to Anna Belle Belville, and they have two children, Isabella Mitchell Woodbury, a member of the Freshman Class of Vassar College, and Robert Belville Woodbury, now taking a postgraduate course in the Pottsville High School of which Prof. S. A. Thurlow, his father's life long friend, is the principal, preparatory to entering Amherst College next fall. Mr. Woodbury resides in a beautiful home on Mahan-tongo Street, said by his neighbors to be one of the prettiest homes of the city. He erected it himself in 1885, under the supervision of W. R. Day, a New York architect.

**Ayres Mason Edwards** is another of the Bethel boys who have kept in touch with their native town although their business interests have made their absence from it necessary. Mr. Edwards was born in Bethel, Jan. 12, 1857, the son of Col. Clark Swett Edwards and Maria A. Edwards, daughter of the late Ayres Mason. He worked on the farm and attended the village school and Gould's Academy, entering Bowdoin College in 1876. In 1880, he graduated with honors; is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, an honor conferred by the college upon a limited number in each class; is also a member of the Greek letter fraternity, Theta Delta Chi, to which many Bethel boys belong. Nearly all of his college expenses



were paid by money he earned in teaching and for other work. He also graduated from the Law Department of the Iowa State University in 1884, and is a member of the Oxford County Bar, but has never practiced law. He immediately engaged in educational work, serving as Superintendent of Schools at Lewiston, Me., several years, also at Pittsfield, Mass.; for the past ten years has been in the school and college text book business—five years as New England manager for Sheldon & Co. of New York, and five years as representative of Ginn & Co. of Boston, with headquarters at Syracuse, N. Y., his present home. He is the author of several school "Helps" and "Aids". He married Miss Lulie P. Sumner and they have one child, Sumner Edwards, who will enter Bowdoin in 1905. Mr. Edwards is engaged with his brother, Fred L., in extensive lumbering operations, and is interested in everything that pertains to the welfare of his native town, where he contemplates having a summer home.

**Judge Enoch Foster** was born in Newry May 10, 1839, the son of Enoch and Persis (Swan) Foster. He was educated in the town schools, Gould's Academy, Maine State Seminary, Lewiston, and Bowdoin College, graduating in 1864. In 1865, he was admitted to the bar in Albany, N. Y., and Augusta, Me. He has an honorable war record covering a period of three years' service in the Civil war. He began practice of law in Bethel, in 1865, and met with remarkable suc-

cess from the first; was county attorney from 1868 to 1874. In 1874, he was elected to the State Senate and re-elected the next year. In 1884, he was appointed Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine, which office he held until 1898, taking high rank as a Judge. After leaving the bench, Judge Foster went to Portland. Here his success is phenomenal. He has been twice married; his first wife, Adeline O. Lowe, died in 1872; his second wife, by whom he has one son Robert C. Foster, a graduate of Bowdoin College and at present a student in Harvard Law School, was Sarah W. Chapman. During Judge Foster's long residence in Bethel, he was ever an active member of the community, always ready by word or deed to help along any cause that was for the best interest of the village or the town. While his loss is deeply felt, it is a source of gratification that he still keeps in touch with those who were his fellow citizens for so many years.



Judge Enoch Foster

**Lilian True Bryant**, wife of Dr. Bertram Lewis Bryant of Bangor, and the youngest member of Dr. True's family, is writing stories that are being favorably compared with the best short

story writers. Her style is compared to Miss Wilkins. Several have appeared and more are soon to appear in McClure's, as well as in the New England Magazine, and the Chautauquan. Mrs. Bryant was a student at Gould's Academy, and a pupil in Miss Hersey's famous Boston school. Her education was further advanced by two years' hard study in Europe, where she was the pupil of Oscar Raif. Although exceptionally gifted as a musician, and showing great literary promise, her greatest interest in life is as the mistress of her home, and the mother of an interesting little daughter, Katherine True Bryant.



Lilian True Bryant

**John Preston True**, the well-known author of half a dozen books of the better class for girls and boys, was born in Bethel, Me., Feb. 13, 1859. His father was our late revered educator, Dr. Nathaniel Tuckerman True, so long identified with the best interests of Bethel. Mr. True was educated in Gould's Academy, Bethel, Phillips-Exeter Academy, New Hampshire, and the Roxbury Latin School, Boston, going from thence to the employ of Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, with whom he has been about twenty-five years, for the most part in the Educational department. The November number of the Atlantic Monthly contains a ringing article from his pen on "Juvenile Literature So-Called." Outside of his office-work he has made his life-study the production of real literature for young people, with such thoroughness and care that his work ranks high among the best. His first book, "Their Club and Ours", which appeared in 1885, in some portions follows rather closely his own boyhood, and readers have amused themselves trying to identify localities and personages in and around Bethel. He did not think it necessary, however, to be over-strict here in geographical accuracy, although some of his schoolmates have thought they knew from whence some of his personal material came; and so life-like was the story that one young girl traveled many miles expressly to meet the author, and wept on discovering that the "boy" who told the story had grown up, since! His next book was "Shoulder Arms," a part of which appeared in St. Nicholas as a serial. But among all his writings, not excepting the wholly novel point of view taken by his stories of the Revolution which have attracted much attention, "The Iron Star" is the book which has no real competitor in its field. Remembering the eagerness with which he browsed over his father's geological books, he has given the children a series of historical pictures covering in succession the Stone, Bronze and Iron Ages, in the form of a connected story, and it is used as an historical reader in the schools of Boston. It has also been adopted for school use by New York city, and many other places. It has been called "a prose poem," "a modern classic," but a school-boy called it "too plaguey short!" The signature of his artist-wife, Lilian Crawford True, appears on the illustrations of three of his books. Their little daughter bears the name of Nathalie, as a softened version of her grandfather's Nathaniel. Perhaps another echo from the outside world will best give the standard by which this Bethel boy is regarded by those well-fitted to judge, and we have found the following critique of his work. "Mr. True has



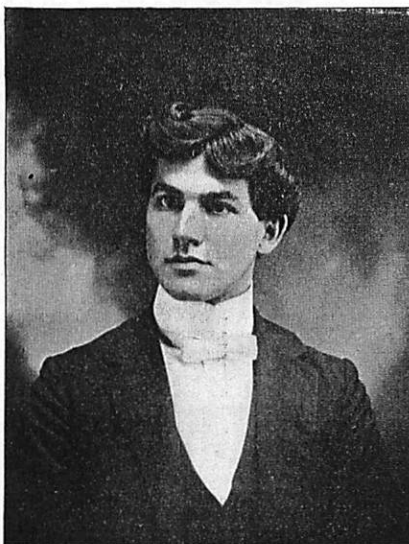
John Preston True



reaped the reward of deliberate and thoughtful work. Every one of his books is in demand for use in schools for class or library reading. Every one of them, as issued, has been rated among the few books in the front rank of that year's publications. In style his work is classed as real literature. Free from sensationalism, nevertheless it leads the reader on with an ever-increasing interest, and with each chapter his audience is intensely eager to know 'what comes next.' It was his fortune to receive his early education in a co-educational academy. It is perhaps in consequence of this early influence that sex is not a factor in the interest of his readers. He is one of the few authors whose books are heartily enjoyed by girls and boys alike. The healthy vitality of his characters, who teach their own lessons without one word of ethical explanation in the easy swing and flow of the story, appeals directly to the innate higher nature. The author never seems to forget, in his character-drawing, Lowell's warning lines:

'Be noble! and the nobleness that lies  
In other men, sleeping but never dead,  
Will rise in majesty to meet thine own.'

**Franklin A. Leach** who, although absent from Bethel still keeps a keen interest in the village, is a young man who is making rapid advancement in his chosen work. When but a boy, he was interested in types and when the office of the News Publishing Co. was opened in Bethel, he at once entered it as an apprentice. Beginning at the lowest rung of the ladder and taking patiently all the hard knocks that come to an apprentice, he ascended step by step until he had acquired knowledge far beyond that attained by the men usually employed in a village office. When he was promoted to the position of foreman the same honesty, faithfulness and spirit of advancement which had characterized him at the beginning of his work, were ever dominant, and he became so proficient in his work that when he sought a larger field in which to labor, he readily secured a position with men who wanted first class printers. In the fall of 1901, he went to Phenix, R. I., as foreman in the Gleaner office. While there he had many opportunities of accepting positions at a much increased salary; he retained the position, however, until September, 1903, when he went to Springfield, Mass., to accept a position as foreman in the news department of the Homestead, a position which he is filling with much success. Mr. Leach is the son of the late John Franklin Leach and Lucy E. Leach, and was born in Bethel, June 29, 1878. He attended the public schools and was a student at Gould's Academy two years, leaving the school before his course was completed to take up his work at the News office.



F. A. Leach

**Almon T. Rowe** is one of Bethel's sons who was forced by circumstances to leave the shade of her towering elms and go out into the world to seek the fortune which seemed denied him here, yet during the years of that acquiring, nourished the love of home, and when fortune came to him, shared it with her in a lavish manner. Mr. Rowe was born in Bethel, April 6, 1836, the son of Caleb and Abigail (Plummer) Rowe. In 1848, having a desire to see more of the world than is visible even from the summit of the high hills about his native village, he hired \$9.00 at 7 per cent. interest from R. A. Chapman, giving his note on demand, and set out for Boston. The fare at that time was \$7.00, leaving him \$2.00 capital with which to begin life among strangers. He thought himself fortunate in securing a position in a shoe store in Roxbury where he received \$3.00 per week. He left this situation at the end of six weeks, and went to work in a retail grocery store where he remained two years. At the end of that time he formed a co-partnership with A. J. Houghton as Houghton & Rowe, in the same business, which they continued five years with much success, when Mr. Houghton retired leaving the entire business to Mr. Rowe, who continued it until September, 1897, when he, too, retired. Mr. Rowe has ever kept in close touch with his native town, spending at least a portion of each vacation here. After retiring from business, he purchased a residence on Broad St. opposite Prospect Inn, and naming it Elmhurst, improved and enlarged it into a model country home. Here he brings his family each spring or early summer, and gives himself over to the enjoyment derived from driving through the fertile valleys and over the majestic hills surrounding Bethel. Many have been the favors and presents by which he has indebted his native village to him, but his greatest gift and one for which he will be held in remembrance is the street sprinkler which he presented last season.

**Albert L. Burbank** Although for many years the subject of this sketch has not made his home among us, yet his name is a familiar one to Bethel people. By the older inhabitants of the town, he is remembered as a former town and county officer, being appointed in 1863, as Clerk of Courts to succeed Hon. Sidney Perham, who was elected Representative to Congress, and re-elected the same year. This position he resigned three years later on account of ill health. Later he accepted a position as Clerk in the Custom House at Portland, which position he held for eleven years, resigning to enter the mercantile business of Burbank, Douglass & Company, wholesale and retail crockery dealers, where he has been for twenty-two years. Mr. Burbank was born in Bethel, Oct. 18, 1831, and educated in town schools, and Gould's Academy; his parents were Jedediah and Frances Burbank. Dec. 8, 1858, he married Isabella G. Fanning, and has had three children, but one of whom, Fanning J., survives. With the exception of Maj. G. A. Hastings, Mr. Burbank is the oldest member of the Board of Trustees of Gould's Academy, succeeding his father, one of the founders and generous supporters of this institution.

#### The Four Sons of Dr. John Grover

**Major Abernethy Grover** was born in Bethel, Feb. 19, 1821; educated at Gould's Academy and Bowdoin College; served in the Maine Legislature and was a member of the Governor's Council; served throughout the Civil war, first as Captain, then as Major of the 13th Me. Regt. In 1880, he went to Montana, where he became Register of the U. S. Land Office by the appointment of President Grover Cleveland, serving in that office four years at Miles City, Montana. He died in Miles City, aged seventy-three years.

**Professor Talleyrand Grover** was born in Beth-



A. T. Rowe

el Aug. 29, 1822; educated at Gould's Academy, and Bowdoin College. He was a polished scholar, accomplished in the modern languages as well as classics, and a profound mathematician; was one of the early preceptors of Gould's Academy. He became a tutor in the primary department of Princeton University; was principal of the Camden High School, New Jersey, four years. He was then elected as professor of the modern languages in Delaware College, Newark, Del., studying in Europe to fit himself for that position. After nine years of great success at Delaware College, he entered the old University of Upsala in Sweden, intending to master the modern languages of Europe, especially the Scandinavian tongue and then return to Bethel and write an English history of the Scandinavian States. Bethel was not to be thus honored. He became exposed during one of his mountain excursions, took a sudden cold and died in full strength of his young manhood at the age of thirty-six.

**La Fayette Grover**, born Nov. 29, 1823; prepared for college at Gould's Academy; was admitted to Bowdoin, but on account of ill health did not graduate. Going to Philadelphia he pursued his studies under the instruction of his brother. He recovered his health, and on the certificate of Prof. Grover as to his scholarship, Delaware College awarded him the degree of A. M. After studying law and being admitted to the bar in Philadelphia, in 1850, he went to the Pacific coast and settled in the practice of law in Salem, Oregon, in 1851. He was a member of the Legislature for several years, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and a member of the Constitutional Convention of Oregon in 1857; was the first Representative to Congress from the new State, and was afterwards elected Governor of Oregon, holding the position for seven years, resigning to enter the U. S. Senate, Mar. 4, 1877.

**General Cuvier Grover**, received his early education at Gould's Academy; he prepared for college at the age of fifteen but preferred to go to West Point Military Academy or to follow a business life. Not being old enough to be admitted to the National Military school, he went to Boston and secured a place as clerk with Eben D. Jordan of the firm Jordan, Marsh & Co. In 1846, he was appointed a cadet at West Point, graduating No. 4, in his class in 1850. He had an honorable war record being four times brevetted for gallantry in the field, and eight times wounded. He left the volunteer service as Brevet Major General and was awarded that rank in the U. S. Army.

### Prospect Inn

Situated in the charming town of Bethel in the northwest corner of Maine, and at the highest point of land within the village limits, stands one of the best known hostleries in the State, Prospect Inn.

The house formerly known as the Bethel House, has, within the past two years, been entirely remodelled and refurnished. Many rooms have been supplied with private baths, large roomy offices and reception rooms have been arranged and everything possible has been done to make the summer vacationists and commercial travellers comfortable.

It is the aim of the management to supply a table that shall be first-class in every respect, and that it is meeting with success is well known to all who have entered its doors for the two years past.

An excellent livery is connected with the house, and careful and experienced drivers are at the service of guests at all times. A coach of "ye olden time" is ready to take picnic parties to the many points of interest in and about Bethel, and these parties have in the past been thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Mr. Charles F. Lord, who purchased the old Bethel House, remodelled and evolved therefrom the modern Prospect Inn, was a native of Brownville, Maine. He has throughout his life catered to the public, first as the driver of a stage coach in the famous Moosehead region, and later as a keeper of a large livery stable in the city of Omaha, Neb., and still later, in operating two livery stables in Massachusetts, one in Roxbury and the other in Brookline. During these years of public service, he had acquired a very complete knowledge of the wants of the general traveler, and these wants he successfully attempted to supply in the Bethel hostelry.

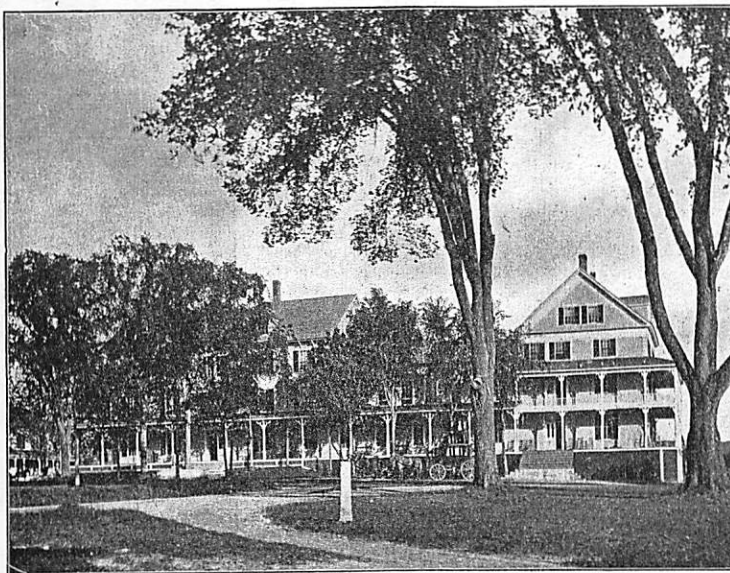
Mr. Lord, however, was not permitted to enjoy the reward of his efforts, for he was attacked soon after coming to Bethel, by a fatal disease that caused his death a few weeks ago. The business has been under the efficient management of Mr. Charles H. Gates for several months, and will continue under the same to realize the ideal of Mr. Lord, in providing a perfect home for the traveling public.

### The Howard

Situated at the head of Main street, facing the Common and with a beautiful outlook in any direction, is the large, handsome residence which Mrs. Myer, a wealthy lady of New York city, bought a few years ago and fitted up as an ideal country home. About \$5,000 were expended in repairs and improvements on an already comfortable and commodious set of buildings; charming grounds were laid out and shrubbery placed by a skilled landscape gardener, making this a delightful spot in which to pass a few weeks or a summer.

This property was purchased last spring by Mrs. Putnam of Dixfield and

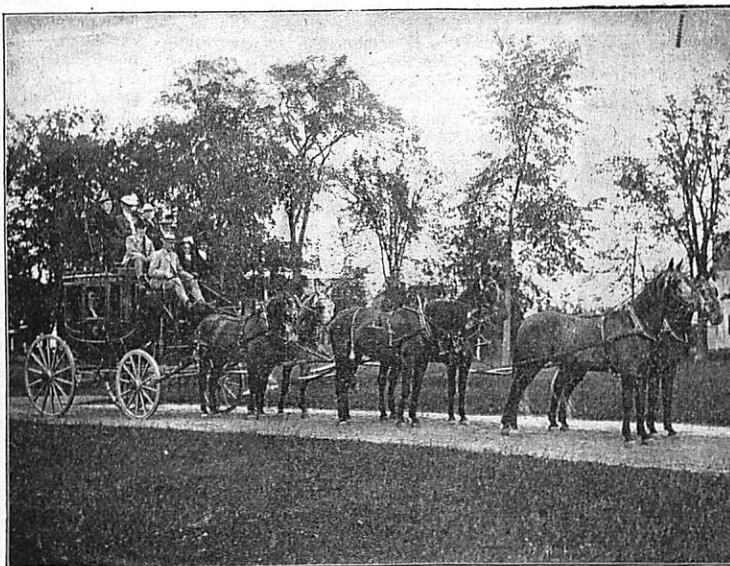
opened to the traveling public as "The Howard." It immediately became popular with commercial men, owing to its proximity to the business portion of the town; with tourist and summer vacationists seeking rest and quiet; with the town's people who drive out during a few weeks of the summer, thus enjoying a vacation in their own



Prospect Inn from Bethel Common

homes; and with the occasional visitor to Bethel, all of whom are attracted and pleased by the general appointments, modern in every particular, and the excellent table furnished by the management, Mrs. Putnam and Mrs. Perkins who have had years' experience in catering to the public in Boston, Lewiston and other cities. Although situated in the center of the village, the spacious grounds about this house afford a quiet seclusion which is very pleasing to those seeking a place in which to rest and recuperate.

A first-class livery and feed stable is connected with The Howard, and careful drivers are provided when desired by patrons. Free transportation for guests and baggage to and from all trains, adds to the convenience of the guests.



Prospect Inn Tally-ho Coach

### George E. Ryerson's Livery

It is just possible that the traveling public and the summer tourists who frequent the picturesque town of Bethel, may not be aware of the fact that the best equipped livery, boarding and baiting stable in town, and in fact, in this section of Oxford county, is that of G. E. Ryerson, in Mayville. It is located just across the Androscoggin river, and is readily available for any occasion where first-class livery service is required, and being connected by telephone in all directions assures prompt service.

Mr. Ryerson was born in Upton, but came to Bethel with his parents about eleven years since. His father, the late C. E. Ryerson, who was a successful lumberman at that time, purchased the Moses Mason property, occupying one of the most beautiful and commanding sites upon the north side of the Androscoggin, at the junction of the Gilead and Swan's Corner turnpikes. For a number of years, the late Mr. Ryerson maintained a summer tourist resort at this place which he named The Riverside, to which was added, some four years since, the livery business, and which upon his death reverted to his son the present proprietor, who has not only maintained the standard of business established by his father, but is continually improving the same. Mr. Ryerson's equipment comprises open and closed, single and double carriages and sleighs, with the best of roadsters; be it a single or double hitch with the best of furnishings, and competent drivers, Mr. Ryerson is prepared to furnish such at a moment's notice. Mr. Ryerson also deals in horses, purchasing and disposing of them upon equitable terms, and anyone wishing for anything in his line, is advised to consult with Mr. Ryerson.

### Harry E. Plaisted

Situated as is Bethel, with the many charming drives radiating from its center in all directions, and many of the surrounding towns remote from railway transportation, the requirements of a livery service are many, yet, H. E. Plaisted, whose livery, boarding, and baiting stable is located on Chapman Street, has, during the three years he has conducted the same, successfully catered to the public patronage. The attention of tourists, traveling men and the public generally is called to the fact that Mr. Plaisted is fully prepared to meet any demand for livery service and will furnish intelligent and competent drivers when required. The business was established some twenty-five years ago by the late G. A. Plaisted, his son the present proprietor, having been associated with him for several years previous to his decease. Mr. Plaisted not only conducts a first-class livery but he also attends to the carrying of the express and mail matter of the village and furnishes the medium of public conveyance for all passengers and baggage to and from the trains.